

Week 5 Discussion post

Locate a news story or other resource from the last six months regarding an issue in healthcare and answer all questions/criteria with explanations and detail.

Include the following sections:

1. Application of Course Knowledge

a. Summarize the issue.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued an alert regarding the surge in measles cases in the United States. As of March 2024, there have been 58 confirmed measles cases in seventeen states, the same number as the total cases reported in 2023. Notably, 93% of these cases are linked to international travel. Most affected individuals are children one year or older without measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccinations. Healthcare providers are advised to ensure that children are up-to-date with routine immunizations, including the MMR vaccine. The CDC also emphasizes the importance of vaccinations for travelers to any international destination, as measles is highly contagious and can have serious consequences. Abbasi (2023) explains that although measles was eliminated in the U.S. in 2000, recent outbreaks highlight the need for continued vigilance in vaccination efforts.

b. Discuss how the issue may impact nursing practice at the micro-, meso, and macro-levels of the healthcare system.

- **Micro-level (Individual Patient Care):** Nurses must be vigilant in assessing patients for symptoms of measles, especially in high-risk areas. Early detection allows for prompt isolation, contact tracing, and appropriate management. In addition, Nurses play a crucial role in educating patients and their families about the importance of measles vaccination. They can address misconceptions, provide accurate information, and encourage timely immunization. Nurses must implement strict infection control measures to prevent measles transmission within healthcare facilities; these include isolating suspected cases, using personal protective equipment, and following protocols.
- **Meso-level (Healthcare Organizations and Communities):** Healthcare organizations should provide ongoing training to nurses on measles management, outbreak response, and infection control. Nurses need to be well-prepared to handle potential outbreaks. Nurses can collaborate with community health programs to raise awareness about measles prevention. They can organize vaccination drives, school-based clinics, and community workshops. Nurses contribute to surveillance efforts by reporting suspected cases promptly. Timely reporting helps public health authorities track outbreaks and implement control measures.
- **Macro-level (Health Policy and Public Health):** Nurses can advocate for evidence-based vaccination policies at the national and state levels. They can participate in campaigns