Health Advisory: Increase in Measles Cases in Minnesota

Minnesota Department of Health, Thursday, October 15, 11:00 CDT 2026

Action Steps

Local and Tribal health department: Please forward to hospitals, clinics, urgent care centers, and emergency departments in your jurisdiction.

Hospitals, clinics and other facilities: Please forward to family physicians, pediatricians, infection preventionists, primary care clinicians, infectious disease doctors, and emergency department staff

Healthcare providers:

- Consider measles especially among unvaccinated people who have had recent contact with a measles case in their community, live in an area with a current outbreak, or have recent travel.
  - Measles presents with cough, coryza, and/or conjunctivitis, and fever, followed by rash that starts at the face and travels downward.
  - Review your organization's procedures for screening patients when they enter your site, testing, infection control, reporting, and post-exposure prophylaxis.
  - Make sure all staff have documented two measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccines or evidence of immunity. Contact the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) with any questions at 651-201-5414.
  - Mask suspect measles cases and room them immediately. Place them in airborne isolation if available. For more information, refer to Minimize Measles Transmission in Healthcare Settings (www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/measles/hcp/minimize.html).
- Collect specimens for PCR testing as soon as possible after rash onset. Contact MDH at time of specimen collection to report the suspect measles case.
  - The MDH Public Health Laboratory (PHL) provides measles PCR testing free of charge, and it is done Monday through Friday with a quick turnaround time. For more information refer to Lab Testing for Measles at the MDH Public Health Laboratory (www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/measles/hcp/labtesting.html).
- If there is a measles exposure at your facility, MDH will work with you on exposure assessment and determining who may be eligible for post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) with MMR vaccine or immune globulin (IG). Contact MDH if a patient is seeking IG as PEP to discuss whether the patient meets the criteria for receiving PEP.
- Assess MMR vaccination status of all patients at every visit and vaccinate susceptible persons. Especially those who are traveling internationally or to a domestic location experiencing a measles outbreak.
  - Children should receive two doses of MMR vaccine, but one dose is considered protective if there was measles exposure. They should receive the first dose at 12 to 15 months of age and the second at 4 to 6 years.
  - Children 6 to 11 months of age can get an early dose of MMR if travel or activity will put them at high risk for exposure to measles. If an early dose is administered, they will need to restart the MMR series after 12 months of age.
  - Children and adults who have received one dose of MMR and are traveling can receive a second dose 28 days after the first is administered.
  - For additional MMR vaccination recommendations review Measles Vaccination Recommendations (www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/measles/hcp/vaxrecs.html).
  - Use MIIC and Provider Organizations (www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/miic/provider/index.html) for help recalling patients due or overdue for MMR. Client Follow-up (www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/miic/train/followup.html) can be used to identify patients in need of MMR. For assistance email health.miichelp@state.mn.us.

Situation summary

Twenty-five cases of measles have been identified in Minnesota since mid-September in Fillmore and Todd Counties (23 cases in the past 21 days). MDH is working with local health departments to contact people exposed to these cases. These cases bring Minnesota's case count to 42 for 2026 as of Oct. 13. MMR vaccination rates have dropped around the state and remain low in many areas. We expect that cases will increase in the coming weeks, so it's important for all providers to encourage vaccination.

Nationally, measles continues to increase. As of Oct. 8, a total of 4,080 confirmed measles cases have been reported by 47 jurisdictions throughout the United States in 2026. Additional data can be found on CDC: Measles Cases and Outbreaks (www.cdc.gov/measles/data-research/).

More information

- Contact MDH 24/7 to report a suspect case or for any questions at 651-201-5414.
- Measles Information for Health Professionals (www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/measles/hcp/index.html) Additional information on recognizing and reporting measles, and translated measles materials and posters.

A copy of this HAN is available at MDH Health Alert Network (www.health.state.mn.us/han). The content of this message is intended for public health and healthcare personnel and response partners who have a need to know the information to perform their duties.