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Public Health [Advisory UPDATE]

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY UPDATE

March 13, 2025

Measles

Columbus Public Health &
Franklin County Public Health

Texas, New Mexico and Oklahoma are experiencing a rapidly growing measles outbreak, the third largest since measles elimination in the U.S. in 2000. Over the past six weeks, 258 cases and two deaths have been reported in unvaccinated and undervaccinated communities. To date, no measles cases have been reported to the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) in 2025. (Seven measles cases and one outbreak were reported in Ohio in 2024.)

With spring and summer travel season approaching, the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) emphasizes the important role that health care providers and public health officials play in preventing the spread of measles <https://www.cdc.gov/han/2025/han00522.html>

The best protection from measles is immunization with the very safe and highly effective Measles Mumps Rubella (MMR) vaccine. To achieve herd immunity for measles, 95% of the population must be vaccinated or have had the disease.

In 2022, central Ohio had 85 cases of measles with 90% in unvaccinated children - the majority of whom were eligible for MMR vaccine. In order to prevent another outbreak, Columbus Public Health and Franklin County Public Health urge you to ensure all your patients are up to date on recommended MMR vaccination, with focus on all patients who travel internationally, including early vaccination of infants 6-11 months of age. To prevent measles infection and spread from imported cases, all U.S. residents should be up to date on their MMR vaccinations, especially before traveling internationally, regardless of the destination.

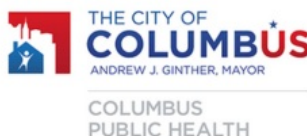
Resources are available for talking to parents about the importance of vaccines and answering questions: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/conversations/downloads/recommending-newborn-infant-vaccines-508.pdf> and <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/conversations/talking-with-parents.html>.

Additionally, clinicians are urged to consider measles in the differential diagnosis of febrile rash illness, especially in individuals who have not been immunized with MMR vaccine.

Health care providers who suspect measles should immediately isolate the patient in an airborne infection isolation room (AIIR) and promptly report to the Infectious Disease Reporting System at 614.525.8888. Columbus Public Health and Franklin County Public Health will facilitate consultation and testing with ODH and CDC for patients who meet the clinical and epidemiologic criteria as possible measles cases.

Guidance about specimen collection is detailed at <https://www.cdc.gov/measles/php/laboratories>.

Measles Clinical Overview: <https://www.cdc.gov/measles/hcp/clinical-overview/index.html>



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