

Ohio Measles Outbreak FAQ

Why did this outbreak occur? Is it the largest measles outbreak?

This outbreak started when unvaccinated travelers visited the Philippines where a large outbreak of measles is taking place. Measles is very contagious and when unvaccinated individuals are exposed, they almost always become ill with measles. The travelers returned to Ohio and spread the disease to other unvaccinated people. This is the largest outbreak of measles in the United States since the early 1990s.

What is happening locally in the counties that are a part of the outbreak?

The counties have done an excellent job responding to this measles outbreak. Some of the activities that the local health departments are doing to prevent and control the spread of measles include monitoring cases, assessing contacts, making isolation and quarantine recommendations, conducting vaccination clinics, and increasing public awareness about measles.

What is happening at the state level to help with this outbreak?

The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) has offered assistance to its local health department partners and has provided technical assistance, coordination with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), vaccination management, and staffing as needed.

The CDC is involved. Does that mean the situation is very serious?

ODH routinely works with the CDC and its Ohio local health department partners on infectious disease outbreaks. The measles outbreak response is a collaborative public health response with local, state, and federal participation.