

Travel FAQ

Can we travel to the areas that are affected with measles?

There are no travel restrictions for persons who have evidence of immunity to measles. Evidence of measles immunity includes documentation of age-appropriate measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccination, laboratory evidence of immunity, laboratory confirmation of disease, or birth before 1957.

Is it safe to travel with my infant to these affected areas?

Parents with infants too young to be vaccinated should consider not traveling with them to areas where measles outbreaks are occurring. Measles can cause severe complications in infants and young children. Therefore, it is better to avoid potential exposures for infants too young to be vaccinated.

Are there any restrictions on adults with different medical conditions?

Recommendations to avoid travel to areas where measles outbreaks are occurring are based on whether an individual has evidence of measles immunity. Individuals who do not have evidence of measles immunity are encouraged to avoid travel to areas where measles outbreaks are occurring until they can be appropriately vaccinated against measles.

Are you discouraging anyone from the affected counties to travel outside the county?

Most individuals who live within the affected counties would have no travel restrictions. However, as with any infectious disease, individuals infected with measles should avoid travel until they are no longer infectious. Persons with measles are considered infectious from 4 days before until 4 days after onset of rash. The local public health department may make quarantine recommendations to close contacts of persons ill with measles, including staying at home from 7 to 21 days after exposure to the ill person.

Is measles common in other parts of the world?

Measles is a common disease in many countries throughout the world. It is possible that people from other countries who visit the United States could be ill with measles. However, the majority of measles in the U.S. occurs when unvaccinated U.S. residents return from international travel. To prevent getting measles from overseas visitors and to prevent getting measles when traveling internationally, U.S. residents should make sure they have been appropriately vaccinated.

What are the travel vaccination recommendations for MMR vaccine?

Before traveling internationally, infants 6 months through 11 months of age should have one dose of MMR vaccine, and children 12 months of age or older, as well as adolescents and adults born during or after 1957, should have two doses of MMR vaccine. Each dose should be separated by at least 28 days. (Please note that the travel vaccination recommendations differ from the routine MMR vaccination recommendations.)

Are you discouraging Ohioans from traveling to the affect outbreak counties?

The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) remind Ohioans that immunizations are the most effective way to prevent illness from vaccine-preventable diseases. Unvaccinated individuals or parents with infants too young to be vaccinated should consider not areas where measles outbreaks are occurring.

Should I stay away from large gatherings happening in the outbreak counties?

As long as you and your family are up-to-date on your immunizations, there is no worry to attend large gatherings.