



CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

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January 7, 2026

MEASLES OUTBREAK

We are currently monitoring a local measles outbreak involving young children.

There is one confirmed pediatric case and two presumed probable* pediatric cases. All three live in the same household and all three are unvaccinated.

*A case that is presumed probable means that a person meets the clinical criteria for a disease and has supportive or preliminary laboratory evidence, but lacks the definitive confirmatory lab results or testing performed in a certified setting.

The children, and others members of their household, have been seen by medical professionals and are isolating as needed until the illness period concludes.

Surveillance indicates that during the course of holiday travel, the children were exposed to other children with measles.

It is critical to remind parents, grandparents, caregivers and those who operate facilities that serve children and families about the importance of vaccinations. Measles is a preventable illness, meaning that there is a dedicated vaccine available to stop children from contracting measles and becoming sick.

The vaccine, known as the MMR vaccine, also protects against mumps and rubella, two contagious viral infections that cause fever, rash, and swollen glands, and can lead to serious complications such as deafness, encephalitis, which is brain inflammation, and meningitis. If a pregnant person gets rubella, birth defects may result.

Two doses of the MMR vaccine are recommended for children, first at 12-15 months of age and again at 4-6 years of age. With the protection of two doses, the vaccine is approximately 97% effective at preventing measles.

Measles is highly-contagious; one unvaccinated person who is ill with measles can infect up to 15 other people. Those infected typically develop initial respiratory symptoms such as fever, cough, runny nose, or conjunctivitis (pink eye) within 7-14

days after exposure, followed by a rash that typically begins on the face and spreads downward.

Complications from measles can be serious and may include ear infections, pneumonia, encephalitis (brain inflammation), and in rare cases, death.

Pregnant women, infants, and individuals with weakened immune systems are at higher risk for severe complications.

UPDATE 1.8.26

We have been notified by the Ohio Department of Health of a change in the status of the local measles cases, as reported yesterday.

There are now three confirmed cases and one suspected case. The suspected case is a sibling.

The three confirmed cases are all school-age children, ranging up to ten years old.

We will continue to provide updates as new information becomes available.