

Health Advisory: Measles – Possible Community Transmission in MN

Minnesota Department of Health, Thu, July 25 14:00 CDT 2024

Action Steps

Local and tribal health department: Please forward to hospitals, clinics, urgent care centers, emergency departments, FQHCs, convenience clinics 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.

Health care providers and Laboratorians:

- Be aware of increased transmission of measles in Minnesota. Increase suspicion of measles among people who are not vaccinated and are presenting with measles-like symptoms (especially those presenting with a rash and fever).
- Report suspected cases of measles to the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) at time of specimen collection, DO NOT wait for laboratory confirmation. Call MDH 24 hours a day, seven days a week at 651-201-5414 or 1-877-676-5414.
- Collect specimens as soon as possible after rash onset and obtain specimens for PCR testing. Visit [Lab Testing for Measles at MDH Public Health Laboratory](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/measles/hcp/labtesting.html) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/measles/hcp/labtesting.html>) for more information.
- Promote with staff how to minimize transmission of measles in the health care setting. Visit [Minimize Measles Transmission in Health Care Settings](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/measles/hcp/minimize.html) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/measles/hcp/minimize.html>) for more information.
- Assess MMR vaccination status of patients at **every visit** and vaccinate susceptible persons according to MMR vaccine recommendations and recall those who have previously refused MMR vaccine. The current situation is an opportunity to restart conversations with patients.

Situation Summary

Cases of measles have been identified in three unrelated children who reside respectively in Hennepin, Anoka, and Ramsey counties. None of the children have history of MMR vaccination. Based on current information, these cases are not directly linked to each other, so there is concern for possible spread of measles in the community. MDH continues to investigate links among these cases and recent cases in June.

Health care providers play an important role in promoting MMR vaccine to help minimize community transmission and by recognizing and testing for measles early.

These most recent cases bring our total in Minnesota to 15 since January, an increase from previous years that also parallels national increases in measles cases ([CDC: Measles \(Rubeola\): Measles Cases and Outbreaks](https://www.cdc.gov/measles/data-research/) [<https://www.cdc.gov/measles/data-research/>]). This year all Minnesota cases have occurred in unvaccinated children and over 50% have needed hospitalization.

All recent measles cases were laboratory confirmed by PCR at the Minnesota Department of Health's Public Health Laboratory (MDH-PHL) between July 22 and July 24. Exposures included the families,

health care facilities, and activity settings. Where possible, MDH and local public health have worked with the settings to notify contacts and provided post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) recommendations as indicated. Susceptible persons who do not get PEP will be asked to exclude themselves from high-risk settings for 21 days following exposure.

For More Information

- [MDH: Measles Information for Health Care Providers](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/measles/hcp/index.html)
(<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/measles/hcp/index.html>)
- [CDC: Talking to Parents about Vaccines](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/conversations/conv-materials.html)
(<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/conversations/conv-materials.html>)

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