



VOL. XXV

June, 2026

A Preventable Crisis: The U.S. Measles Surge and the Cost of Anti-Science Leadership

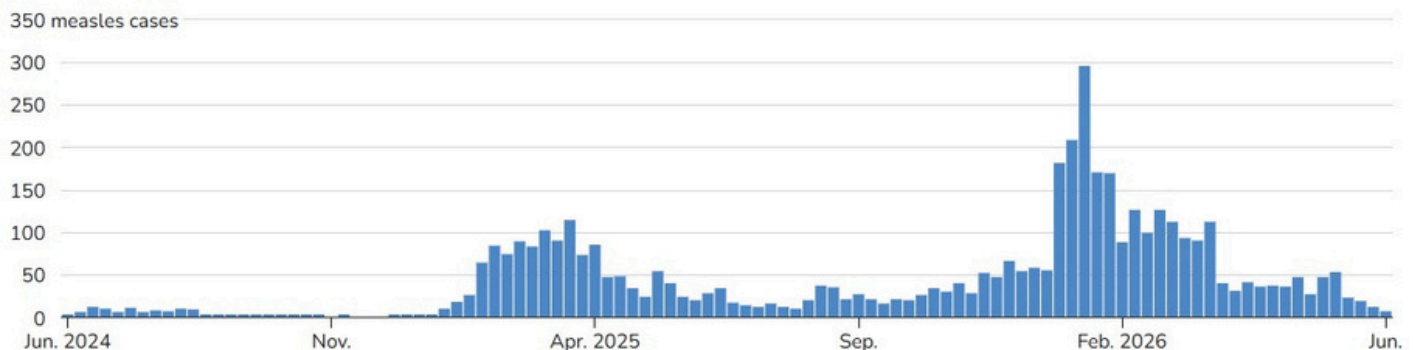
A Grim Milestone for American Public Health

We are facing a public health emergency that was entirely preventable. According to updated data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the United States has recorded 2,170 confirmed measles cases in 2026—and we are only halfway through the year. This staggering figure nearly matches the 2,289 cases recorded across the entirety of 2025, representing a measles crisis on a scale this country has not seen in over three decades.

Measles was declared officially eliminated from the United States in 2000, thanks to robust and widespread uptake of the Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) vaccine. Today, that monumental achievement is on the verge of being permanently erased.

Weekly measles cases by rash onset date

2022–2026* (as of July 2, 2026)



Source: CDC

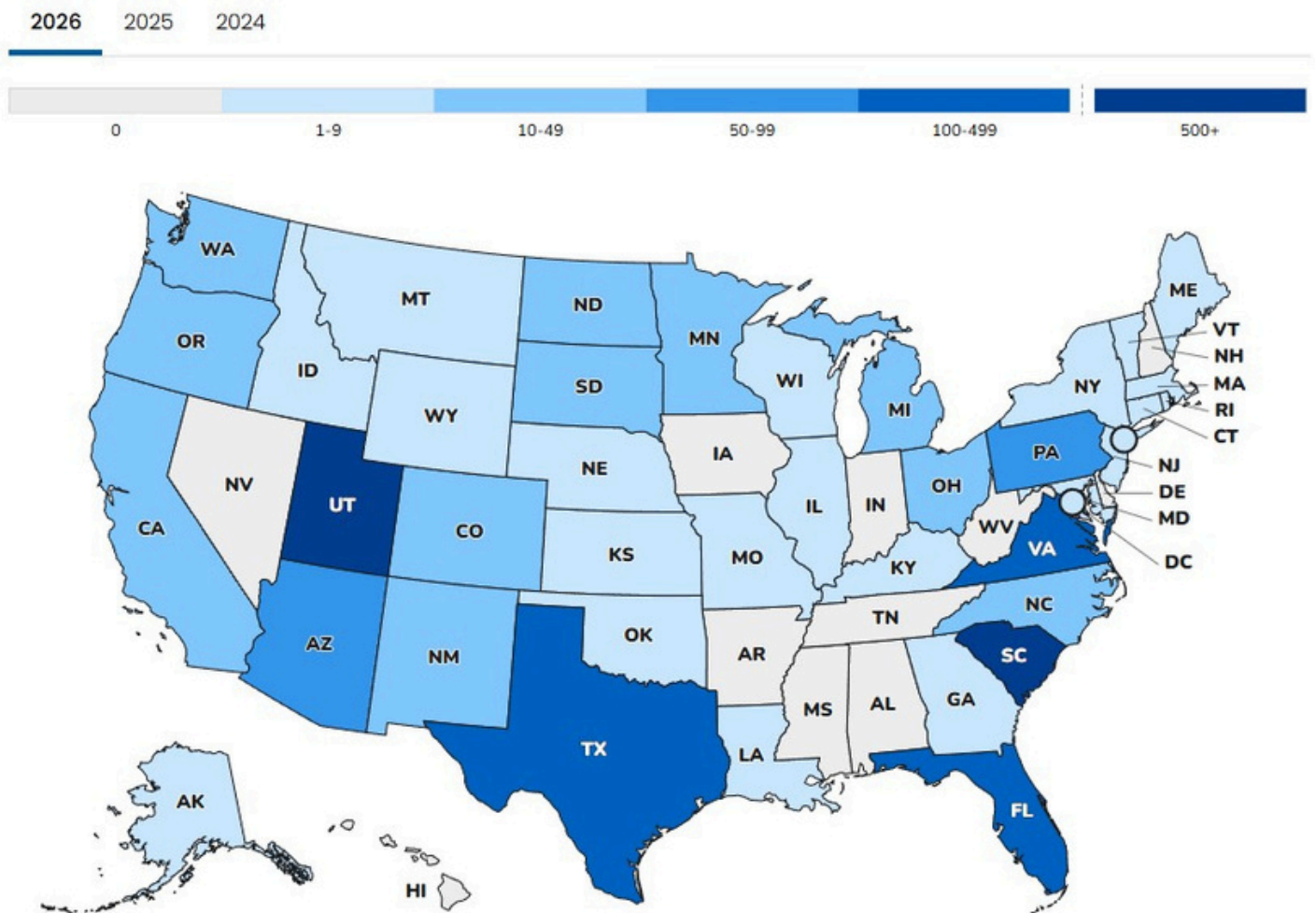
Tracking the 2026 Surge

The reality of this outbreak is clear when looking at who is getting sick and where the virus is spreading. The vast majority of cases are tightly concentrated among individuals who lack protection: 93% of all reported cases of measles are from people who are NOT vaccinated.

The standard two-dose MMR vaccine regimen is 97% effective at preventing measles. Yet, because community protection is fraying, the virus is easily finding pockets of vulnerable individuals, leading to prolonged chains of transmission that local health departments are struggling to extinguish.

Map of measles cases among U.S. residents

as of July 2, 2026



Source: CDC

The Collapse of Herd Immunity

The primary driver of this resurgence is the steady erosion of childhood vaccination coverage. To maintain "herd immunity" against a pathogen as highly contagious as measles, a population must maintain a vaccination rate of at least 95%.

Unfortunately, national MMR coverage among U.S. kindergartners has slipped from 95.2% during the 2019–2020 school year down to 92.5% recently. This gap left roughly 286,000 schoolchildren entirely unprotected at the start of the school year. When an unvaccinated traveler returns from abroad with the virus, these low-coverage pockets act like tinder for a wildfire.

The RFK Jr. Effect: Undermining Public Health from the Top

While public health officials try to contain this escalating crisis, their efforts are being actively undermined by the leadership at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Under Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., the federal response has shifted away from established medical science toward harmful rhetoric and policy shifts.

- **Double-Sided Messaging:** While Kennedy has stated under oath in Senate hearings that he "promotes" the measles vaccine, his public rhetoric frequently undercuts this. He has repeatedly amplified debunked claims about vaccine safety, opposed long-standing school mandates, and falsely suggested that the MMR vaccine causes widespread annual mortality.
- **Pushing Unproven Alternatives:** Rather than forcefully advocating for universal vaccination during active outbreaks, Kennedy has publicly promoted alternative treatments like mega-doses of Vitamin A. This misinformation has had immediate real-world consequences, with former CDC officials noting an alarming rise in hospital admissions for Vitamin A toxicity as parents follow unscientific advice.
- **Crippling Local Infrastructure:** Compounding the ideological rhetoric are devastating systemic cuts. The administration has reduced federal funding aimed at local health department outbreak responses, leaving short-staffed agencies without the resources needed for aggressive contact tracing and quarantine measures.

"Anyone who is spreading misinformation about the safety or effectiveness of the measles vaccine shares in the responsibility for these outbreaks, especially if they have the ear of the public."

— Dr. David L. Hill, American Academy of Pediatrics spokesperson

The Path Forward

Public health is built on collective responsibility. When federal leadership chooses to legitimize anti-vaccine conspiracy theories and strip funding from frontline containment teams, the consequences are measured in hospitalized children.

To protect our communities and the most vulnerable among us—including infants too young to be vaccinated and immunocompromised individuals—we must reject political pseudoscience. Talk to your pediatrician, ensure your family's immunizations are up to date, and advocate for public health policies rooted in rigorous peer-reviewed science.

For a closer look at the data and testimonies behind the federal response to this ongoing crisis, you can view this RFK Jr. Senate Hearing Video, which highlights the intense legislative scrutiny over vaccine messaging and public health accountability.



Check out my book [“Murder, Inc.: How Unregulated Industry Kills or Injures Thousands of Americans Every Year...And What You Can Do About It”](#). Available in Hardcover, Paperback, Kindle & Audiobook on Amazon now.

Please feel free to share this issue of the Goldhaber Warnings Report with any interested friends or colleagues who may wish to [subscribe](#) to this newsletter or [enroll](#) in any of my NACLE courses on warnings.

