

MEASLES OUTBREAK

June 8, 2026

In the year 2000, the World Health Organization declared that measles infections had been eliminated in the USA. Since 2003, there have been sporadic outbreaks in the USA of children who contracted the measles virus. Prior to 2025, the last known case of a childhood death in the USA from measles was in 2003. At the end of March 2025, the number of reported cases of measles in the USA had reached close to 500; and there was a documented childhood death from the disease. A second child died during the first half of April 2025. Cases of measles in the USA were first identified in Texas, and then in many other states. ***There has now been a new/recent documented case of measles in our community;*** and there are several reported cases in New York State and Ontario, Canada. We can assume that the significant increase in immigration to the USA, and increasing numbers of unvaccinated individuals, have contributed to the current outbreaks. ***Almost all the childhood cases reported were in unvaccinated children.***

Measles is very contagious and very uncomfortable for the child. Many symptoms, including high fever, congestion, rash, eye discharge and serious respiratory difficulty, are common with the disease. There are a few cases of brain inflammation associated with the disease. ***One dose of the Vaccine is reported to be 90%—95% effective in preventing disease,*** especially if given 2 weeks or more before any exposure to the measles virus. It is a “live Vaccine”; but we see very few, if any, side effects in children with normal immune systems who are given the vaccine at the recommended age of 12 months. Where measles is prevalent, the vaccine is recommended after 6 months of age.

Our Providers (Doctors & Nurse Practitioners) are more than willing to answer any questions, or review any information, that parents may have regarding the measles virus and/or the Vaccine. ***At this time our providers are highly recommending parents to vaccinate their children for measles.*** As always, our Practice strives for the best possible education of Parents, in order to make medical decisions that are best for their children (our patients). We will try to post updates regarding measles cases & the vaccine as new information is presented to us. For questions, parents can also go to the CDC Website, or the NYS-DOH Website. As always you can reach out to us with any concerns or the ECDOH website.

NYS-DOH : <https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/measles/>

CDC Website: <https://www.cdc.gov/measles/index.html>

ECDOH: <https://www3.erie.gov/health/measles-rubeola>
