



Health Alert



CDPH
Chicago Department
of Public Health

City of Chicago
Brandon Johnson, Mayor

www.chicagohan.org

Chicago Department of Public Health
Olusimbo Ige, MD, MS, MPH, Commissioner

Update on Measles Activity in the Chicago Area and U.S. **October 22, 2025**

Summary and Action Items

- Five cases of measles have been confirmed in the surrounding Chicago area since September: four in suburban Cook County and one in Lake County, Indiana.
- Measles cases in the U.S. have declined since a peak of 115 cases/week in March but continue to be reported at elevated levels with ongoing outbreaks in Arizona, Utah, Minnesota, and South Carolina.
- Clinicians should be vigilant for signs and symptoms of measles in their patients.
- **Providers should notify Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) immediately upon suspicion of measles. Do not wait on test results before notifying CDPH.**

BACKGROUND: There have been five confirmed cases of measles in the surrounding Chicago area since September 2025: four cases in suburban Cook County residents, and one case in a Lake County, Indiana resident. The four measles cases in suburban Cook County are epidemiologically linked. The index case in this outbreak was believed to have acquired measles during international travel. Additional linked cases in non-Illinois residents have been confirmed following exposure to the index case on an airplane that flew into O'Hare International Airport. The case in Lake County, IN was identified the week of October 13 and occurred in an unvaccinated child. CDPH [publishes identified measles exposure locations](#) in Chicago public settings for which lists of exposed people cannot be obtained. A list of exposure locations statewide is published on the [Illinois Department of Public Health website](#).

Nationally, 10-30 [cases of confirmed measles have been reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) each week since September. As of October 15, 1,596 confirmed measles case have been reported in the U.S. during 2025, the highest number of cases annually since measles was eliminated in the U.S. in 2000. The vast majority (92%) of cases are not vaccinated or have unknown vaccination status. There have been 44 outbreaks reported in 2025 including current outbreaks in Arizona, Utah, Minnesota, and South Carolina.

Measles outbreaks in [Canada](#) and Mexico have been declining but transmission remains ongoing. Yemen, Pakistan, India, Nigeria, Indonesia, Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, and the Russian Federation, in addition to Canada and Mexico, are the top ten countries with measles outbreaks according to the [WHO](#).

With ongoing outbreaks in the U.S. and internationally, air travel may increase measles exposure and infection risk, especially for individuals who are not up to date with the recommended MMR vaccine doses. Providers should discuss all upcoming travel plans with their patients to ensure they are up to date on MMR vaccination and that they follow [MMR vaccine recommendations](#) when traveling internationally. Those traveling within the U.S. to areas with measles outbreaks should also ensure they are up to date on their measles vaccinations. Please see the vaccination section below for specific travel recommendation details.

IDENTIFY: Consider measles in patients with [compatible signs and symptoms](#). Providers should ask about a history of international travel, history of domestic travel to areas with ongoing outbreaks, contact with foreign visitors, transit through an international airport, or possible exposure to a measles patient in the three weeks prior to symptom onset. See [CDPH's measles evaluation algorithm](#) for support when evaluating patients for

suspected measles. Patients with suspected measles should be masked and placed in an airborne isolation room (AIIR); healthcare providers should [wear a fit-tested N-95 when interacting with the patient](#). Infection control personnel should be notified.

REPORT: Providers, hospitals, and laboratories should notify CDPH immediately upon any suspicion of measles. Do not wait for test results before notifying CDPH; any delay in notification might result in avoidable exposures. To report a suspected case of measles to CDPH, call 312-743-9000 during business hours and select option 2. During after-hours, weekends, holidays, or if you are unsuccessful using the number above, call 311 (or 312-744-5000 if outside the City of Chicago) and request the CDPH provider on-call.

TEST: Call CDPH immediately upon suspicion of measles to discuss testing. Serology testing alone is insufficient for diagnosis. The state public health laboratory provides PCR testing for measles at no cost to the patient or provider, and results are typically available within 1 business day. Testing at commercial laboratories can delay results and is not recommended.

VACCINATE: Ensure your patients and staff are [up to date on measles vaccination](#).

Please use your EMR system to recall patients who are overdue. Otherwise, I-CARE has a reminder recall process which allows sites to generate a list of patients who are overdue for a vaccine. The step-by-step instructions are on the [Chicago HAN VFC webpage](#).

If your healthcare organization is interested in MMR vaccine doses for uninsured and underinsured adults, please contact CDPH Vaccine Manager at kevin.hansen@cityofchicago.org.

Please be aware there are additional specific [MMR vaccine recommendations for international travel](#), including to Canada and Mexico. These international travel recommendations include:

- Early infant MMR dose for ages 6 to 11 months prior to international travel. Infant still needs to receive their 2 routine doses of MMR vaccine at the appropriate ages.
- Children 12 months and older should have 2 doses of MMR vaccine at least 28 days apart prior to international travel.
- Adults [without evidence of immunity](#) should receive 2 doses of MMR vaccine at least 28 days apart prior to international travel.

For additional details on measles symptoms, specimen collection, and diagnostic testing, please see www.chicagohan.org/measles