



HEALTH ALERT

Gregory Cherpes, MD
ODP Medical Director



August 25, 2026 **Updated**

Confirmed Measles Cases in Pennsylvania

The Pennsylvania (PA) Department of Health (DOH) today has confirmed two [measles-associated deaths](#) in PA as well as 393 cases of measles across 28 counties in Pennsylvania.

These mark the first deaths related to measles within the Commonwealth in 35 years. The Office of Developmental Programs is sharing this updated Health Alert on measles with stakeholders for awareness.

Contact your healthcare provider immediately if you have symptoms consistent with measles or believe you may have been exposed to a person with measles.

On August 25, 2026, PA DOH Reported:

“The measles outbreak in Pennsylvania has continued to spread across the state. Between April and August 25, 2026, the Pennsylvania Health Department confirmed 393 measles cases in 28 counties across Pennsylvania and two deaths. In addition, there are several counties in which DOH has determined there is sustained community transmission of measles. **For the most up to date information regarding case counts and counties with sustained community transmission, providers should visit the [DOH Measles dashboard](#).** Early, accelerated and catch-up MMR vaccinations are indicated for people living in or visiting counties with sustained community transmission. **The best protection against measles is getting fully vaccinated. The MMR vaccine, administered over two doses, boosts a person’s immune system and [provides 97% lifetime protection](#).**”

Summary

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Publication Date: 02/04/2026 **Updated 08/25/2026**

Supporting Pennsylvanians with developmental disabilities and their families to achieve greater independence, choice, and opportunity in their lives.

- Between April and August 21, 2026, the Pennsylvania Health Department (DOH) confirmed 379 measles cases across 28 counties in Pennsylvania.
- PA DOH developed a [Measles Dashboard](#) which updates case counts by county.
- DOH just added information indicating which counties have sustained community transmission of measles.
- During outbreaks, early, accelerated and catch-up vaccination is encouraged for people who live in or plan to visit areas where there is sustained community transmission of measles:
 - Infants 6 through 11 months should get one early dose of measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine. They should still receive their routine doses at 12–15 months and 4–6 years.
 - Children older than 1 year who have not yet received any measles vaccine should get two doses at least 28 days apart. Children who already received one dose should get their second dose now if it has been at least 28 days since their first dose.
 - Adults with no evidence of immunity should get two MMR doses at least 28 days apart. Adults and teens who already received one dose should get a second dose at least 28 days after their first dose.
- Continue to maintain a high index of suspicion for measles in patients presenting with fever and rash, especially in those who are unvaccinated.
- Immediately report suspected measles cases to local public health authorities or to DOH at 877-PA-HEALTH (877-724-3258). Providers should not wait for lab confirmation to notify public health if measles is suspected.

Healthcare providers Should:

- Have an increased suspicion for measles in patients who present with a febrile-rash illness and follow the proper recommendations for testing and infection control measures.

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- Immediately report suspected cases of measles to local public health authorities or to the PA DOH at 877-PA-HEALTH (877-724-3258).

What is Measles:

Measles is an extremely contagious virus that lives in the mucus membranes of the nose and throat of infected people, according to health experts. The virus can be transmitted from person to person through coughing and sneezing. When an infected person sneezes or coughs, droplets spray into the air and those droplets can contain an active and contagious virus which will remain in the air and on surfaces for up to two hours. A healthy person can also be infected with the measles if they breathe the contaminated air or touch an infected surface and then touch their eyes, nose, or mouth.

Symptoms of a Measles infection:

Measles normally begins with a fever (100.4° or higher) that lasts for several days. That's followed by a cough, runny nose, and watery eyes. Two to three days after the symptoms begin, tiny white spots may appear in the mouth. Three to five days after symptoms begin, a flat red spotted rash appears on the face at the hairline and spreads downward to the neck, trunk, arms, legs, and feet. The flat red spots may also be joined by small, raised bumps. Symptoms appear about seven to 14 days on average after exposure, but the appearance of symptoms may take as long as 21 days.

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Measles symptoms typically include:

- high fever,
- cough,
- runny nose (coryza),
- red, watery eyes (conjunctivitis)
- rash breaks out 3-5 days after symptoms begin.



Are Measles serious?

Measles can be serious at all ages, but children less than 5 and adults over 20 are more likely to have complications. Complications include:

- Ear infection that can result in permanent hearing loss.
- Diarrhea requiring hospitalization.
- Pneumonia – this is the most common cause of death in children.
- Swelling of the brain- that may lead to brain damage.
- Pregnant women may have their babies early and the baby's weight may be low.
- Of every 1,000 people who get measles 1-2 of them will die.

How does measles spread to other people?

- Infected people can spread measles to others from 4 days before through 4 days after the rash appears.
- It can spread to others through coughing and sneezing.
- When someone sneezes or coughs the virus can live for up to 2 hours in the air.
- If other people breathe the contaminated air or touch the infected surface, then touch their eyes, noses, or mouths, they can become infected.
- More than 90% of the people close to an infected person who have not been vaccinated against measles will also become infected.

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Can measles be prevented?

- Receiving the Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) vaccination can prevent measles. See your health care provider for more information related to the measles vaccination.
- The American Academy of Family Physicians, and the American Academy of Pediatrics strongly recommend children receive all vaccines according to the recommended schedule.

Resources

1. [About Measles - CDC](#)
2. [Measles Infographic - CDC](#)
3. [Measles information for healthcare providers - CDC](#)
4. [Measles | Red Book: 2024–2027 Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases | Red Book Online | American Academy of Pediatrics](#)
5. [Measles Vaccine Recommendations- CDC](#)
6. [Infection control guidelines for measles- CDC](#)
7. [Measles Clinical Diagnosis Fact Sheet- CDC](#)
8. [Surveillance manual chapter on measles- CDC](#)
9. [Measles Dashboard- PA DOH](#)

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