

Submitted by:  
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**Measles**  
**2015 U.S. General Information as of February 9, 2015**

**2015 U.S. Measles Situation**

**Measles cases**

- From January 1 to February 6, 2015, 121 people from 17 states in the U.S. and Washington DC have been reported as having measles [AZ (7), CA (88), CO (1), DC (1), DE (1), IL (3), MI (1), MN (1), NE (2), NJ (1), NY (2), NV (2), OR (1), PA (1), SD (2) TX (1), UT (2), WA (4)]\*.
  - Most of the cases [103 (85%)] are considered to be part of a large, ongoing, multi-state outbreak linked to an amusement park in California.
  - The majority of cases are among unvaccinated people or those who did not know whether they were vaccinated.
  - Cases have ranged from 6 months to 70 years.
  - Some of them have been hospitalized.

\*Preliminary data reported to CDC's National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, updated weekly on Mondays. See more up-to-date information at <http://www.cdc.gov/measles/cases-outbreaks.html> (updated every Monday)

**U.S. multi-state measles outbreak, December 2014—February 2015**

- The United States is currently experiencing a large, multi-state outbreak of measles linked to an amusement park in California.
  - From December 28, 2014 to February 6, 2015, 114 people from 7 states in the U.S. [AZ (7), CA (99), CO (1), NE (1), OR (1), UT (3), WA (2)] have been reported to CDC as having measles and are considered to be part of this outbreak.
  - The source of the outbreak has not been identified. However, it likely started from a traveler who got measles while abroad then visited the amusement park while infectious and spread the disease to others.
  - Analysis by CDC scientists shows that the measles virus in this outbreak is identical to the virus type that caused the large measles outbreak in the Philippines in 2014. However, the same virus type has been identified within the past 6 months in 14 other countries and at least 6 U.S. states not associated with the current outbreak.

**Guidance for parents**

Parents should make sure their children are protected against measles with two doses of MMR vaccine—the first dose at 12 through 15 months of age and the second dose 4 through 6 years of age. Parents should make sure their children are protected against measles with two doses of MMR vaccine—the first dose at 12 through 15 months of age and the second dose 4 through 6 years of age.

Here are some websites for parents:

- General article about measles: <http://www.cdc.gov/features/measles/>
- Fact sheet about measles and MMR vaccine specifically for parents: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/measles/fs-parents.html>
- Frequently Asked Questions about measles and MMR vaccine: <http://www.cdc.gov/measles/about/faqs.html>

## General Measles Information

### **About measles**

- Measles is a serious respiratory disease caused by a virus.
  - Measles starts with a fever. Soon after, it causes a cough, runny nose, and red eyes. Then a rash of tiny, red spots breaks out. It starts at the head and spreads to the rest of the body. The rash can last for a week, and coughing can last for 10 days.
- Measles is highly contagious and spreads through the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes. It is so contagious that if one person has it, 9 out of 10 people around him or her will also become infected if they are not protected.
  - You can get measles just by being in a room where a person with measles has been, even up to two hours after that person has left.
  - An infected person can spread measles to others even before he or she develops symptoms—from four days before they develop the measles rash through four days afterward.
- Measles can cause serious health complications, such as pneumonia or encephalitis, and even death.
  - Children younger than 5 years of age and adults older than 20 years of age are at high risk of getting a serious case of measles. When you get vaccinated, you also protect others around you who are at high risk for complications but can't get vaccinated because they are too young or have a health condition.
- If you have fever, rashes, and other measles-related symptoms, call ahead to your doctor. Tell your doctor about any recent international travel or exposure to others who have recently traveled internationally or if there is measles in your community. Anyone who is suspected of having measles must be promptly isolated to prevent the disease from spreading to others.

### **Measles and mass gatherings**

- Mass gatherings, including tourist attractions and sporting events such as the Super Bowl and Olympics, bring together large concentrations of people from throughout the world. Some events may attract people from particular risk groups, such as those who haven't received routine vaccinations. This could increase the chances of infectious diseases, like measles, spreading among those who are susceptible.
  - Measles is highly contagious and can spread among people who are unvaccinated, but importantly, we have a very effective measles vaccine and high vaccination coverage in the U.S.
  - If you have already been vaccinated against measles or have immunity to the virus, you are considered protected against measles.
  - If you are unvaccinated, you can get measles anywhere (school, work, the gym, etc.) and any time of the year because of cases that are brought into the U.S. from other countries where measles is still common. Worldwide, an estimated 20 million people get measles each year.
- CDC recommends that people of all ages stay up to date with their vaccinations.
- For those who travel internationally, CDC recommends that all U.S. residents older than 6 months be protected from measles and receive MMR vaccine, if needed, prior to departure.

### **Possible exposure to measles**

- If you're not protected against measles and think you might have been exposed to someone with measles:
  - Stay home. Do not go straight to the doctor. Instead, call ahead to inform a healthcare professional of your possible exposure so you can get instructions about how to avoid exposing others.
  - If you're not already protected, get measles vaccine.

- If given within 72 hours of initial exposure, MMR vaccine may provide some protection or lessen the severity of disease.
- Except in healthcare settings, unvaccinated people who receive their first dose of MMR vaccine within 72 hours after exposure may return immediately to childcare, school, or work.

CDC and MDPH urge the public to consider measles when symptoms may appear such as a febrile rash. If measles are suspected and to avoid disease transmission avoid contact with others and immediately report the suspect measles case to the local health department and MDPH at 617.983.6800.

- For more information, please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/measles/about/index.html>