



# Wayne County News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Wayne County Experiences New Case of Measles**

*Wayne County Public Health (WCPH) is Alerting the Public About Possible Exposure*

Wayne, Mich. – Wayne County Public Health has confirmed a case of measles associated with international travel in an adult residing in Wayne County. The individual is following all isolation protocols. This is the second confirmed case of measles in the state in just over a week, though the cases are not connected.

WCPH is working closely with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services to identify anyone who might have been exposed through this case. Possible contacts of the individual are being notified by WCPH. However, WCPH is also requesting anyone who meets the following criteria to email the WCPH at [PHECC@waynecounty.com](mailto:PHECC@waynecounty.com) with their name, best phone number, and address immediately:

- 1) Was present at any of the following locations and times;
- 2) Has not been fully vaccinated for measles (two doses of MMR vaccine) or whose vaccine status is unknown; AND
- 3) Has not yet been contacted by WCPH

**WellStreet/Beaumont Urgent Care at 23100 Michigan Ave in Dearborn on February 27th between 2:00PM and 5:30PM.**

**CVS Pharmacy (#8128) at 2701 S. Telegraph Rd in Dearborn on February 27th between 4:00 PM and 6:30 PM.**

**Henry Ford GoHealth Urgent Care at 26763 Ford Rd in Dearborn Heights on February 29<sup>th</sup> between 11:30 AM and 4:00 PM.**

**Corewell Emergency Department at 18101 Oakwood Blvd in Dearborn on February 29<sup>th</sup> between 3:00 PM and 8:00 PM.**

These individuals are asked to immediately contact WCHD at the email address listed above to discuss the possibility of post-exposure treatment, which may prevent measles if received within 6 days of the exposure.

Additionally, residents with possible exposure should monitor themselves for up to 21 days from the date of exposure for the following signs and symptoms:

- High fever (may spike to over 104°F).
- Cough.
- Runny nose.
- Red, watery eyes (conjunctivitis).
- Tiny white spots on the inner cheeks, gums, and roof of the mouth (Koplik Spots) two to three days after symptoms begin.
- A rash that is red, raised, blotchy; usually starts on face, spreads to trunk, arms and legs three to five days after symptoms begin.

If symptoms develop, residents are urged to contact their healthcare provider and notify them before seeking care so steps can be taken to prevent exposure to other individuals.

“Vaccination is the single best way to protect yourself, your family, and the people you spend your days with,” said Dr. Abdul El-Sayed, Wayne County Health Officer. “Given the growing risk of measles because of outbreaks in Europe and elsewhere, we highly recommend you verify your and your family’s vaccination status immediately—and get vaccinated if you or they have not been.” To verify their vaccination status, residents are encouraged to contact their health care provider or WCPH.

Measles is a highly contagious, vaccine-preventable disease, with serious possible complications including hospitalization, long-term illness, and death. Cases are increasing across the U.S. and outbreaks are occurring nationally and globally.

Measles spreads through infectious droplets or by airborne spread when an infected person breathes, coughs, or sneezes. Measles is so contagious that ninety percent of unvaccinated people who are exposed to measles will become infected. Infected people can spread measles before noticing symptoms, including from four days before through four days after the rash appears. Measles virus can stay in the air for up to two hours after an infected person leaves an area. Symptoms of measles usually begin 7-14 days after exposure but can appear up to 21 days after exposure.

The best protection against measles is MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) vaccination. The measles vaccine is highly effective, very safe, and provides long-lasting protection. Two doses are about 97% effective at preventing measles.

Measles can be serious, especially for babies and young children. One in five children who contract measles will be hospitalized. One in 20 children who contract measles will develop pneumonia. Up to three children who contract measles in 1,000 will die.

With the risk for community spread, parents are encouraged to make sure their children are up to date on all their childhood immunizations, including the measles vaccine. Ninety percent of unvaccinated individuals who are exposed to measles will become infected. About one in five people who get measles will be hospitalized.

Across the United States, routine immunization coverage has dropped. Statewide, vaccine coverage for the MMR (2 doses) vaccine for children ages 4 to 6 years old has decreased from 89.4% in 2017 to 83.9% in 2023. For children ages 19 through 35 months of age, vaccine coverage has decreased from 84.7% in April 2020 to 83.6% in December 2023.

A single dose of measles vaccine is about 93% effective at preventing measles, while two doses are about 97% effective. It is also effective if used within 72 hours of a measles exposure to prevent illness. However, some individuals with weakened immune systems may not be eligible to receive this vaccine. Getting vaccinated not only protects the individual receiving the vaccine but can also protect vulnerable individuals in our communities from being exposed to this illness.

Vaccines are available through primary care providers and pharmacies. Medicaid and most insurance plans cover MMR vaccine at no-cost. Vaccines are also available at WCPH. To learn more about measles resources and vaccines in Wayne County, please visit [www.waynecounty.com/measles](http://www.waynecounty.com/measles).

Children eligible for the Vaccines for Children program may receive the vaccine from a provider enrolled in that program at no-cost. [Vaccines for Children \(VFC\): Information for Parents | CDC](#)

To learn more about the MMR vaccine, visit [Vaccine for Measles \(MMR Shot\) | CDC](#).

For more information about Measles cases in the U.S., visit [Measles Cases and Outbreaks | CDC](#).

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