

News Release

For more information, contact Logan Schofield
740-392-2200 Ext. 2234 or lschofield@knoxhealth.com



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Measles Outbreak in Knox County, 14 Confirmed Cases

As of April 8, 2025, there are now a total of 14 confirmed cases, seven of which are Ohio residents, linked to the initial case of measles in Knox County. These individuals have isolated and their symptoms are being monitored throughout their isolation periods.

Knox Public Health (KPH) has been working with identified exposures since contact tracing began and they have been in quarantine. No additional close contacts or suspect cases have been identified.

Measles is a highly contagious virus. Individuals infected with measles can spread it to others who do not have immunity from prior disease or vaccination, even before they have symptoms. The measles virus can live for up to two hours in the air after an infected person leaves the room. Symptoms usually appear 7 to 14 days after a person comes in contact with the virus, but it can take as long as 21 days for symptoms to appear.

Measles symptoms include: high fever (may spike from 103° F to 105° F), cough, runny nose, pink/red, watery eyes, and a red/brown blotchy rash. The rash will appear on the face and then spread to the trunk and extremities. Rash and other symptoms usually subside in 7 to 9 days. According to the Ohio Department of Health, about one out of every five people who get measles will be hospitalized. Approximately one out of every 1,000 people with measles will develop brain swelling due to infection (encephalitis) which may lead to brain damage. Nearly 1 to 3 out of 1,000 people with measles will die, even with the best care.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends all children get two doses of measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine, starting with the first dose at 12 through 15 months of age and the second dose at 4 through 6 years of age. Anyone traveling internationally should be fully vaccinated before traveling. Infants 6-11 months old should get one dose of the MMR vaccine before travel, then should receive two additional doses after their first birthday. Older children, adolescents, and adults should receive one or two doses of MMR vaccine if they do not have evidence of immunity. If you have received two doses of the

MMR vaccine, your chances of getting measles are very low. After two doses, the vaccine is approximately 97% effective at preventing measles.

Talk to your healthcare provider about vaccination if you are unvaccinated or do not know if you are vaccinated. The MMR vaccine is safe and effective with hundreds of millions of doses given. Please contact your medical provider or Knox County Community Health Center at 740-399-8008 if you have questions about measles, or the MMR vaccination, or would like to schedule a vaccination appointment.

If you have symptoms, stay home, avoid contact with others, and call your healthcare provider. Please do not show up in the waiting room without contacting the staff first in case you suspect you have measles.

For more information and updates, visit Knox Public Health's website at:
<https://www.knoxhealth.com/index.php>. For more information about measles, visit
<https://www.cdc.gov/measles/>

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