Erie County Department of Health
Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
GALE R. BURSTEIN, MD, MPH, FAAP
COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH

HEALTH ADVISORY #376 **November 9, 2026**

STAY ALERT FOR MEASLES CASES REPORTED IN MULTIPLE UNDER-IMMUNIZED COMMUNITIES IN NEW YORK STATE

Please distribute to Healthcare Providers, Hospitals, Laboratories, Emergency Rooms, Community Health Centers, College Health Centers, Community-Based Organizations, Family Planning Providers, and Internal Medicine, Family Medicine, Pediatric, Adolescent Medicine, Infectious Disease, and Primary Care Providers

SUMMARY

The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) issued a Health Advisory in August 2026 notifying medical facilities and healthcare providers of increasing measles cases occurring in multiple NYS counties, **especially among under-immunized communities**. NYS Governor Kathy Hochul issued an Executive Order on October 5, 2026, declaring a State Disaster Emergency in response to the growing number of measles cases in rural communities and neighboring states. The Executive Order has been extended until at least December 4, 2026.

To enhance this messaging with local providers, the Erie County Department of Health (ECDOH) is sharing the following information:

- Healthcare providers, schools, and early childhood education providers should continue to ensure their patients/students are up-to-date on measles vaccine.

- Per NYSDOH, in an outbreak area, children (without contraindications) should receive MMR vaccine **as soon as they are eligible**. In the current situation where measles has affected multiple under-immunized communities and where there is suspected under-reporting, this includes children who belong to a community where at least one measles case has recently occurred or where there are credible reports that measles is circulating. **In outbreak areas, please consider the following NYSDOH measles vaccination recommendations:**

    - Infants 6-11 months of age should receive one dose. This dose does not count toward the routine two-dose schedule.

    - Children aged 1 year and older should receive two MMR vaccine doses as early as possible, 28 days apart. School requirements will be fulfilled by 2 doses given after 1 year of age, 28 days or more apart.

    - Sample outbreak area pediatric MMR vaccination schedule:
      Dose 1 at 6-11 months, dose 2 at 12 months, dose 3 at 13-15 months

- Children over 1 year of age who have not received 2 MMR doses (administered at 1 year of age or older) should receive the two-dose schedule as soon as possible.

- See ECDOH Health Advisory from June 4, 2026 and NYSDOH Health Advisory from August 21, 2026 for comprehensive measles guidance and information.

- Emergency department personnel and healthcare providers should be on alert for patients who have: (1) febrile rash illness and symptoms consistent with measles (e.g., cough, coryza, or conjunctivitis), and (2) have had contact with individuals with symptoms consistent with measles/known measles. Individuals may or may not have had recent travel to high-risk areas. Healthcare officials can track local measles health risks using the NYSDOH Measles Dashboard.

  - **DO NOT** allow patients with suspected measles to remain in the waiting room or other common areas of the facility. Immediately institute Standard plus Airborne Precautions for patients with suspected or known measles.

  - **NOTIFY** the emergency room if a patient with suspected or known measles needs to be sent to a hospital so that appropriate infection control precautions can be implemented upon arrival.

- To promptly identify suspected cases of measles and prevent healthcare-associated exposures, **consider screening patients for rash with fever at the point of entry of a healthcare facility** (e.g., during appointment scheduling and at the reception desk), and inquire about recent international or domestic travel and possible exposure to measles.

- Measles test collection kits (include swab outfit with transport media) are available from NYSDOH. Providers can order these kits by calling the NYSDOH Wadsworth Center Order Desk at (518) 474-4175. Nasopharyngeal (NP) swab is the preferred respiratory specimen type for reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR).

- **Immediately report patients with suspected measles to the Local Health Department (LHD) where the patient resides. Do not wait for laboratory confirmation to report. Erie County residents should be reported to the ECDOH Office of Epidemiology and Disease Surveillance at (716) 858-7697.**

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ECDOH

- General Measles Information
- ECDOH Health Advisory from June 4, 2026
- Shareable Instructions for Exposed Persons

NYSDOH

- General Measles Information for Provider, Including Previous Health Advisories
- NYSDOH Measles Dashboard – Measles Cases in NYS
- NYSDOH Measles Health Advisory from August 21, 2026
- NYS Wadsworth Center Laboratory's Measles Tip Sheet
- Measles Post-Exposure Prophylaxis Table

CDC

- General Measles Information
- Measles Vaccine Recommendations (including PEP recommendations)
- Measles Cases and Outbreak Data

AAP

- Red Book - Measles

Health Category Definitions:
Health Alert FLASH: conveys the highest level of importance due to a large-scale, catastrophic public health emergency; warrants immediate action or attention
Health Alert Priority: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention to a health problem or situation
Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action
Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; no immediate action necessary

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The ECDOH Health Alert & Advisory System is an e-mail notification system designed to alert community partners about important health related information. You can sign up to receive alerts & advisories at https://www3.erie.gov/health/form/health-alert-registration.