



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

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To: North Carolina Clinicians
From: Emma Doran, MD, MPH, Medical Epidemiologist
Subject: Measles Outbreak in Virginia (2 pages)
Date: June 25, 2026

Background

This memo is intended as an update for North Carolina clinicians regarding the measles outbreak in Virginia and to provide a reminder about reporting, testing, and vaccination materials that are available to partners.

The Virginia Department of Health declared a measles outbreak in Buckingham County on May 13, 2026. As of June 25, 2026, 106 cases have been reported due to the outbreak, which is occurring in a close-knit religious community. The [Virginia measles dashboard](#) is updated on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Measles cases and outbreaks in the United States typically occur in under-vaccinated communities. Clinicians should offer measles vaccination to under- or unvaccinated families as well as to individuals planning travel to areas in the United States where measles outbreaks are ongoing and to those planning international travel. Vaccination is highly effective and the best way to prevent measles.

As of June 25, 2026 no measles cases have been reported in North Carolina since the week ending February 21, 2026. The [NCDHHS webpage](#) that shows measles cases and exposure locations will be updated as needed. Prompt recognition, reporting, and investigation of measles cases are important because the spread of the disease can be limited with early case identification and vaccination of susceptible contacts.

Recommendations

- Consider the diagnosis of measles in anyone presenting with a febrile rash illness and compatible symptoms of cough, coryza, conjunctivitis and recent international travel or travel to a region reporting recent cases. Refer to the DHHS website for additional [reporting and infection control guidance](#).
- Clinicians should provide MMR vaccine to all unvaccinated patients who are eligible for this vaccine and discuss the importance of MMR vaccine with parents. Parents consider their child's healthcare professionals to be their most trusted source of information when it comes to vaccines; you have a critical role in helping parents choose vaccines for their child.
- Healthcare providers and health departments should not accept verbal reports of vaccination without written documentation as presumptive evidence of immunity. Individuals can find out if they are considered to be immune with the help of the [Check Your Immunity to Measles](#) tool on the NC DHHS website.
- All U.S. residents older than 6 months of age without evidence of immunity who are planning to travel internationally or to areas with known outbreaks domestically should receive MMR vaccine prior to departure. Early vaccination guidance and travel recommendations are available on the [NCDHHS measles website](#).
- Detection of measles virus RNA via polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and measles-specific IgM antibody are the most common methods for confirming measles infection. North Carolina State Laboratory of

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

Public Health (NCSLPH) can test nasopharyngeal (NP) specimens as well as urine specimens; it is preferred to pair NP and urine specimens. Other specimen types (such as OP) will be forwarded to a vaccine-preventable disease reference laboratory or CDC. NCSLPH does not conduct IgG antibody testing. Measles testing is also available through several commercial laboratories. **Testing through SLPH is available only with prior approval from the Communicable Disease Branch, but in some circumstances is faster than commercial testing.**

- Please refer to the [NCSLPH Measles Specimen Collection and Shipment Guidance](#) for additional details. Contact the Virology/Serology Unit at SLPH (919-733-3937) for any questions related to specimen collection, storage, and shipment.

Additional information on vaccination, post-exposure prophylaxis, infection control, testing, and treatment, and additional resources including recordings of provider webinars are available on the [NCDHHS Measles Resources for Providers Webpage](#).

Contact the Communicable Disease Branch **Epi-On-Call at 919-733-3419** (available 24/7) or your [Local Health Department](#) with any other questions.

Additional information

[Measles cases and outbreaks in the U.S.](#)

[North Carolina Kindergarten Immunization Dashboard](#)