

Measles

Agent: Measles virus

Mode of Transmission: Primarily person-to-person transmission by inhalation of respiratory droplets or direct contact with nasal or throat secretions of infected people; however, airborne transmission via aerosolized droplet nuclei has been documented.

Signs/Symptoms: Fever, cough, conjunctivitis, coryza (inflammation of the mucous membrane inside the nose), and a typical rash on the third to seventh day after onset of symptoms.

Prevention: Measles vaccine should be given as part of the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) series beginning at 12-15 months of age followed by a second dose at age 4-6 years. Infants <12 months of age traveling internationally should be vaccinated with an additional dose if at least 6 months of age.

Other Important Information: Measles is highly communicable, with secondary attack rates greater than 90% among susceptible people who have close contact with the infected person. Measles elimination has been maintained in the United States since it was declared no longer endemic in 2000. Measles remains endemic in parts of the world, but progress is being made toward elimination as demonstrated by a 67% decrease in reported cases from 2000-2013. Imported cases, many that originate in Asia and Europe, continue to occur in U.S. residents who were exposed while traveling abroad and by persons visiting the United States. As cases are imported and can be costly to control, it is important for individuals planning international travel to be aware of their immune status and obtain a vaccination if necessary.

Measles: 2015 Data Summary	
Number of Cases:	1
5-Year Average Number of Cases:	2.4
% Change from 5-Year Average:	-58%
Incidence Rate per 100,000:	0.0

In 2015, one case of measles was reported in Virginia. This represents the second consecutive year measles has been reported in the state. In the previous five years, cases were reported in 2014 (two cases), 2011 (seven cases), and 2010 (three cases).

The one reported case in 2015 occurred in an adult male following international travel. Vaccination status was unknown for this individual. The case was reported from the northern region and resulted in a multi-jurisdictional response including other states.

Nationally, 189 cases of measles were reported in 2015 from 24 states. Over half of these cases were linked to a large outbreak that began in 2014 at an amusement park in California. This outbreak continued through April of 2015 and included epidemiologically linked cases in six other states (Arizona, Colorado, Nebraska, Oregon, Utah, and Washington) and two other countries (Canada and Mexico). The multi-jurisdictional spread of this outbreak emphasized the importance of maintaining high immunization rates with MMR vaccine and how vaccine coverage can vary at a local level.