



# HEALTH ALERT

Gregory Cherpes, MD  
ODP Medical Director



**April 2, 2025**

## **Possible Measles Exposure**

The Pennsylvania Department of Health (PA DOH) has confirmed Erie county's third case of the measles. The Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) is sharing this updated Health Alert with stakeholders for awareness.

### **On Friday, March 28th:**

A child was diagnosed with measles, Erie County's third confirmed case, Erie County Department of Health officials announced Sunday. The following areas were visited by the individual during the infectious period:

- Creative Learning Childcare  
2312 W. 15th St., Erie, PA  
Tuesday 3/25/25 through Thursday 3/30/25
- UPMC Children's Express Care  
3330 Peach St., Erie, PA  
5:45 PM until close

### **Healthcare providers should:**

- Have an increased suspicion for measles in patients who present with a febrile-rash illness and follow the proper recommendations for testing and infection control measures.
- Immediately report suspected cases of measles to local public health authorities or to the PA DOH at 877-PA-HEALTH (877-724-3258).

## What is Measles:

Measles is an extremely contagious virus that lives in the mucus membranes of the nose and throat of infected people, according to health experts. The virus can be transmitted from person to person through coughing and sneezing. When an infected person sneezes or coughs, droplets spray into the air and those droplets can contain an active and contagious virus which will remain in the air and on surfaces for up to two hours. A healthy person can also be infected with the measles if they breathe the contaminated air or touch an infected surface and then touch their eyes, nose or mouth.

## Symptoms of a Measles infection:

Measles normally begins with a fever (100.4° or higher) that lasts for several days. That's followed by a cough, runny nose and watery eyes. Two to three days after the symptoms begin, tiny white spots may appear in the mouth. Three to five days after symptoms begin, a flat red spotted rash appears on the face at the hairline and spreads downward to the neck, trunk, arms, legs, and feet. The flat red spots may also be joined by small, raised bumps. Symptoms appear about seven to 14 days on average after exposure but can last as long as 21 days.

¶

Measles-symptoms-typically-include:¶

- → high-fever,¶
- → cough,¶
- → runny-nose-(coryza),¶
- → red, watery-eyes-(conjunctivitis)¶
- → rash-breaks-out-3-5-days-after-symptoms-begin.¶



## Are Measles serious?

Measles can be serious at all ages, but children less than 5 and adults over 20 are more likely to have complications. Complications include:

- Ear infection that can result in permanent hearing loss.
- Diarrhea requiring hospitalization.
- Pneumonia – this is the most common cause of death in children.

- Swelling of the brain- that may lead to brain damage.
- Pregnant women may have their babies early and the baby's weight may be low.
- Of every 1,000 people who get measles 1-2 of them will die.

### **How does measles spread to other people?**

- Infected people can spread measles to others from 4 days before through 4 days after the rash appears.
- It can spread to others through coughing and sneezing.
- When someone sneezes or coughs the virus can live for up to 2 hours in the air.
- If other people breathe the contaminated air or touch the infected surface, then touch their eyes, noses, or mouths, they can become infected.
- Up to 90% of the people close to an infected person who have not been vaccinated against measles will also become infected.

### **Can measles be prevented?**

- Receiving the Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccination can prevent measles. See your health care provider for more information related to the measles vaccination.
- The Centers for Disease Control (CDC), American Academy of Family Physicians, and the American Academy of Pediatrics strongly recommend children receive all vaccines according to the recommended schedule.

### **Resources**

1. [About Measles - CDC](#)
2. [Measles Infographic - CDC](#)
3. [Measles information for healthcare providers](#)
4. [Measles vaccine recommendations:](#)

5. [Infection control guidelines for measles](#)
6. [Measles Clinical Diagnosis Fact Sheet](#)
7. [Surveillance manual chapter on measles:](#)