

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Confirmed Measles Cases in Medina County

MEDINA, Ohio, October 9, 2026 – The Medina County Health Department (MCHD) has been notified of two cases of measles in Medina County, Ohio (one confirmed case, and one probable case). To protect the patients' privacy, MCHD will not share any additional details about the individuals. MCHD is monitoring cases and working to notify anyone who may have been exposed.

As of October 8th, Ohio has reported 228 measles cases across 21 counties in 2026, according to the Ohio Department of Health. The majority of individuals infected were either unvaccinated or have an unknown vaccination status.

Measles is one of the most contagious diseases we know of and can lead to serious complications. Complications could include hospitalization, pneumonia, brain swelling, death, or pregnancy complications. The measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine is the best way to protect yourself from measles. Getting two doses gives about 97% protection, which means people who are vaccinated have a very low chance of getting sick or having serious problems.

How Measles Spreads

Measles is a very contagious virus that spreads easily when an infected person coughs or sneezes. In fact, 9 out of 10 unvaccinated people exposed to the virus will contract it.

Here's why it spreads so fast:

- People can spread the virus before they feel sick.
- The virus can stay in the air for up to two hours after an infected person leaves the room.
- It is dangerous for anyone, but babies and young children are at the highest risk.

Symptoms to Watch For

Measles symptoms usually start 7 to 14 days after someone is exposed to the virus, but sometimes it can take up to 3 weeks for symptoms to appear. Common symptoms include:

- Fever (may be low-grade or spike to more than 104°F)
- Cough
- Runny nose

- Red, watery eyes
- Rash (breaks out 3-5 days after other symptoms begin)

What to Do If Someone Has Symptoms:

- **Keep them separated:** Keep the sick person away from family members who are not sick.
- **Stay at home:** Everyone in the house should stay inside so they do not spread the virus to neighbors or people in the community.
- **Call first:** Before seeking medical care, call your doctor or hospital to tell them someone in your home may have measles. They will give you instructions on what to do before you arrive.

When to Go to the Emergency Room

If the sick person gets worse quickly or has any of these warning signs, take them to the Emergency Room (ER) right away. Do not wait.

- **Trouble breathing** (or breathing much faster than normal)
- **Chest pain** when breathing or coughing
- **Signs of dehydration** (dry mouth, peeing less, or crying without tears)
- **High fever or severe headache** that will not go away
- **Confusion**, extreme tiredness, or trouble staying awake
- **Blue color around the lips**, low energy, or trouble feeding (in babies and young children)

Important: Call the emergency room before you leave your house. Tell the hospital staff that someone who may have measles is coming. When you arrive, stay in your car until the medical staff tells you what to do.

MMR vaccination is the best way to prevent measles. People who cannot or prefer not to get vaccinated are at high risk of getting measles. Recognizing measles and getting appropriate medical care is important to help prevent the spread of the virus and to prevent severe complications.

Any further updates can be found on the Health Alerts page of our website at medinahealth.org/health-alerts. For more questions about measles, call us at 330-723-9688, option 2.

About Medina County Health Department

The public health mission is to prevent, promote, and protect health. You can trust the Health Department to keep you informed and provide reliable information on what you can do during this outbreak and beyond. The Medina County Health Department has protected your health since 1918. Services are partially supported by your property tax health levy. Equal opportunity provider.

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