



For Immediate Release

April 16, 2025

Health Alert: Second Local Case of Measles

AMARILLO – Amarillo Public Health has confirmed the second case of measles in a resident of Potter and Randall Counties.

Measles is a highly contagious respiratory virus that can lead to severe, life-threatening illness, particularly among individuals who are not vaccinated. The most effective protection against measles is the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine.

Measles spreads through direct contact with infectious droplets or airborne transmission when an infected person breathes, coughs, or sneezes. The virus can remain in the air and continue to be infectious for up to two hours after the infected person has left the area.

Symptoms typically develop 7 to 21 days after exposure and may include:

- High fever
- Cough
- Runny nose
- Red, watery eyes
- Tiny white spots inside the mouth (Koplik spots) appearing 2–3 days after symptoms begin
- A flat, red rash that starts on the face and hairline 3–5 days after symptoms begin, spreading downward to the neck, trunk, arms, legs, and feet

A person with measles is contagious from about four days before the rash appears to four days after. Individuals who suspect they may have measles should stay home during this time to prevent spreading the virus.

People who think they have measles or may have been exposed to measles should isolate themselves and call their healthcare provider before they arrive to be tested. It is important to let the provider know that the patient may have measles and to get instructions on how to come to the office for diagnosis without exposing other people to the virus.

- The best way to prevent getting sick is to be immunized with two doses of MMR.
- Given the ongoing risk of exposure with the current regional measles outbreak, Amarillo Public Health recommends that infants 6-11 months be given an early dose of MMR to decrease the risk of developing measles.
- Infants who receive an early dose of vaccine should continue to receive the MMR vaccine according to schedule. During this outbreak, providers are encouraged to consider giving Dose 1 of MMR at 12 months of age and the second dose 28 days later.

Amarillo Public Health

Amarillo Area Public Health Board
850 Martin Road, Amarillo, TX 79107
(806) 378-6300
amarillopublichealth.org

- Adults and children who are uncertain if they have received two doses of measles vaccine, should consider a second dose.
- Providers should report any suspected cases to Amarillo Public Health immediately.

For more information, contact Amarillo Public Health at (806) 378-6321 or visit amarilloalerts.com.

Amarillo Public Health

Amarillo Area Public Health Board
850 Martin Road, Amarillo, TX 79107
(806) 378-6300
amarillopublichealth.org