



HEALTH ALERT

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Possible Measles Exposure

The PA Department of Health (PA DOH) has issued a Health Advisory on 8/4/2023 titled [Probable Measles Case and Possible Exposures in Blair and Clearfield Counties](#). This follows the PA DOH Health Advisory [Possible Measles Exposure in Southeastern Pennsylvania \(pa.gov\)](#) from 7/28/2023. The Office of Developmental Programs is sharing this Health Alert with stakeholders for awareness.

On 8/4 PA DOH reported:

One probable case of measles was recently identified with possible exposures in Blair and Clearfield Counties.

- While this probable measles case was potentially infectious, they visited several locations where potential exposure to the general public may have occurred. The locations and times when residents may have been exposed include:
 - July 23, 2023: Victoria Baptist Church of Moshannon Valley, 614 Grace St., Houtzdale, PA, 16651 (Clearfield County), from 9:30 am to 2:00 pm and 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm;
 - July 29, 2023: Med Express, Plank Ave., Altoona, PA (Blair County), from 3.17 pm to 5.45 pm;
 - July 29, 2023: UPMC Altoona, Emergency Department, 620 Howard Ave., Altoona, PA 16601 (Blair County) from 4:04 pm to 6:50 pm;
 - July 29, 2023: Penn Highlands Tyrone Hospital, 187 Hospital Dr., Tyrone, PA 16686 (Blair County), from 5:08 pm to 10:45 pm.
- Med Express, Penn Highlands Tyrone Hospital, and UPMC Altoona are notifying and

evaluating patients, visitors, and staff who may have come in contact with the individual.

PA DOH also informed healthcare providers to:

- 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 a highly contagious virus that lives in the nose and throat mucus of an infected person.

Symptoms of a Measle Infection

The symptoms of measles generally appear about 7 to 14 days after a person is infected. The measles rash usually starts first as flat red spots on the face. These spots may increase in number and connect spreading down the neck and body. Small, raised bumps may form on the flat red spots.

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 do 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 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 Fact Sheet – Pennsylvania Department of Health](#)
4. [Probable Measles Case and Possible Exposures in Blair and Clearfield Counties](#)
5. [Possible Measles Exposure in Southeastern Pennsylvania \(pa.gov\)](#)