

News Release

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Kane County Health Department Reports Second Measles Case of 2026

The Kane County Health Department (KCHD) is investigating a newly confirmed case of measles in a vaccinated individual who was a contact of the first case, reported on August 24, 2026. KCHD is notifying individuals who are known to have been potentially exposed and will provide additional guidance as appropriate.

While the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine provides strong protection against measles, breakthrough infections (measles cases in vaccinated individuals) can occur. People who are vaccinated and develop measles are generally less likely to experience severe illness or complications and may be less likely to transmit the virus.

If You Were Potentially Exposed and Are Vaccinated

People who are vaccinated against measles should monitor themselves for symptoms for 21 days after their last potential exposure.

Symptoms of measles may include:

- High fever
- Cough
- Runny nose
- Red, watery eyes
- A rash, which appears 3-5 days after the first symptoms, that typically begins on the face and spreads to the rest of the body

If you develop symptoms, stay home and call your healthcare provider before going to a medical facility. Tell the healthcare provider that you may have been exposed to measles so they can provide instructions and prevent potential exposure to others.

Do not go directly to an emergency department or other healthcare facility without calling ahead. Measles is highly contagious, and arriving without advance notice could expose other patients and healthcare workers.

Individuals who remain symptom-free through the end of the monitoring period do not need to take further action related to this exposure.

If You Were Potentially Exposed and Are Unvaccinated

Individuals who are unvaccinated and were potentially exposed to the first case have been contacted directly by KCHD and were already under quarantine. These individuals should follow the quarantine instructions provided by KCHD and should not attend school, work, social activities or other public gatherings during their quarantine period. They should stay separated from family members as much as possible. If you are already under quarantine, this new case does not change your quarantine instructions unless KCHD contacts you directly.

KCHD is currently reaching out to those who were contacts of the second case to provide quarantine guidance and will provide specific instructions based on exposure.

Measles Infection After Vaccination

The MMR vaccine is highly effective at preventing measles, but no vaccine provides 100% protection. In a small percentage of cases, a person who has received the recommended doses of MMR can develop a breakthrough infection after being exposed to the measles virus.

A breakthrough case does not mean that the vaccine did not work. The protection provided by vaccination can vary from person to person. Importantly, two doses of MMR vaccine provide approximately 97% protection against measles, and vaccination remains the best way to prevent measles and its complications. People who develop measles despite vaccination generally have milder illness, are less likely to experience complications and are less likely to spread the virus to others

Protect Yourself and Your Community

The best protection against measles is vaccination. Two doses of MMR vaccine provide the strongest protection and are highly effective at preventing measles.

If you need the MMR vaccine for yourself or a family member, you can contact:

- Your physician
- Your pharmacy
- [Area health centers that often accept Medicare/Medicaid or offer free or sliding-scale services for low-income families](#)
- The Kane County Health Department provides immunizations for children with Medicaid plans or who are uninsured or underinsured until their 19th birthday. We also provide vaccines for adults who are uninsured or underinsured. To learn more about eligibility, schedule an appointment, or obtain a referral, please call 630-208-3801.

People who are unsure whether they have received the recommended doses should check their immunization records or contact their healthcare provider. If you cannot locate your vaccination records, contact your current or previous healthcare provider, school, or IDPH's vaccination records portal, [Vax Verify](#). Your provider can discuss whether vaccination or blood testing is appropriate.

Why Vaccination Matters: Learning From the First Case

The first measles case in Kane County this year demonstrated how quickly measles can create a significant public health response. That individual had up to 1,600 potential exposures, requiring the Kane County Health Department to identify and notify people who may have been exposed and provide guidance to help prevent further spread.

The current case also highlights an important point about measles vaccination: vaccination greatly reduces the risk of getting measles, but breakthrough infections can occur. Even when a vaccinated person develops measles, vaccination generally provides protection against severe illness and complications.

This is why vaccination remains our strongest tool for preventing measles and limiting its spread. It also demonstrates why everyone who may have been exposed regardless of vaccination status should take potential exposure seriously, monitor for symptoms and follow guidance from public health officials.

KCHD thanks the individuals who followed quarantine guidance after the first case. Their cooperation and willingness to stay home during the monitoring period helped reduce opportunities for measles to spread in our community.

Measles Activity in Southwestern Wisconsin

Kane County residents should also be aware of an ongoing measles outbreak in southwestern Wisconsin. As of September 8, 2026, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services reports 151 confirmed and six probable measles cases in Grant, Iowa and Lafayette counties. Public health officials report that measles is continuing to spread locally in the area.

Southwestern Wisconsin is a popular destination for visitors from northern Illinois, including during the Labor Day holiday weekend. People who traveled to the area recently may have spent time in communities where measles is currently spreading. KCHD encourages residents who traveled to southwestern Wisconsin to be aware of the ongoing outbreak and to monitor for symptoms of measles, particularly if they are not vaccinated or are unsure of their vaccination status.

Additional information about measles, vaccination, and exposure and quarantine guidance is available at: <https://www.kanehealth.com/Pages/Measles-Update.aspx>.