

DDPHE Measles Update & Immunization Strategy

Prevention is Public Health

Objectives

- Share updates on 2025 measles response
- Discuss school vaccination rates & regulations
- Highlight DDPHE prevention and response strategy
- Highlight Public Health Nursing efforts



Measles 2025 – National Context

- In 2024, **285 measles cases** total measles cases reported nationwide
- **1,319** confirmed cases of measles reported in 2025 (as of 7/22/25)
- **87%** of cases are associated with outbreaks.

Notable State Outbreaks:

- Texas/New Mexico (January 2025 to present)
 - 762 cases in West Texas, 95 cases in New Mexico
 - 93% cases unvaccinated or unknown vaccination status
 - Outbreak is active but slowing. Most recent case reported from early July.
- Kansas (March 2025 to present)
 - 87 cases in southwest Kansas.
 - 92% unvaccinated/unknown/not age appropriately vaccinated.
 - Most recent case reported in early July.

International Outbreaks:

- Canada (October 2024 to present)
 - 2,248 cases reported across Canada. Majority reported in Ontario.
 - Outbreak appears to be slowing but continuing to report cases across the country.
- Mexico (2025)
 - 2,597 cases reported. Majority reported throughout Chihuahua.
 - Continuing to see an increase in cases.

Measles 2025 – Local Context

- Between 2017 and 2024, there were just 4 cases reported in CO
 - All international travel-associated
- **16 cases** of measles reported in CO residents in 2025 (as of 7/22/25)
- Additional out-of-state measles cases who were residing, traveling, or seeking medical care in CO while infectious.

Traveler Associated Outbreak

- 10 of the 16 CO cases were associated with an out-of-state case who traveled while infectious
 - 4 from the same international flight
 - 5 exposed at DEN
 - 1 secondary case from an exposed traveler

Denver Cases

- 4 confirmed cases in Denver County residents
 - 1 exposed to the ill traveler on the international flight
 - 2 travelled to outbreak area in Mexico
 - 1 secondary case in a household contact

DDPHE Response Strategy: Case Investigation

- Conducted by Disease Intervention and Epidemiology staff
- In-depth case interviews
- All suspected and confirmed cases who reside in Denver County



Confirm
symptoms



Establish timeline
of disease



Implement control
measures



Identify additional
Exposures

DDPHE Response Strategy: Contract Tracing



Identify high &
low risk contacts



Determine level of
exposure



Contact exposed
individuals



Assess risk



Implement control
measures

DDPHE Response Strategy

Internal Coordination

- Department Operations Center activation
- Daily coordination calls
- Sharing reports and data with internal/external staff and partners

Interagency & Partner Coordination

- HOST
- DEN
- PHIDH
- DPS
- Hospitals
- Higher Education
- CDPHE
- Neighboring LPHAs

Public Communication

- Addressing vaccine hesitancy and misinformation
- Channels:
 - News media, social media, DDPHE website, community toolkits,

DDPHE Response Highlights

- Contacted and assessed approx. 437 individuals, 186 identified as high-risk contacts
- Referred or administered post-exposure prophylaxis to 28 high-risk contacts
- No known secondary cases from any healthcare exposure
- DDPHE nurses deployed to provide home testing for several suspected cases
- Recently conducted an in-depth walkthrough of the Denver Health Emergency Department, and an in-depth review of their air handling system

Back to School Vaccination

Required vaccinations for school-aged children

- 5 vaccines are required for Kindergarten entry
- HepB, DTap, IPV, MMR, Varicella

Exemption rates

- CO avg 7.9% (NME)
- Denver avg 3-4%

Vaccination rates for Denver:

84.3% - 84,273 students



DDPHE Vaccination Efforts

Mobile Vaccine Clinics

- Shelters, Libraries, Denver Animal Shelter

Community Partnerships

- DPS
- PHIDH

Culturally Responsive Outreach

Data-Driven & Evidence-Based Practice



Vaccine Safety & Landscape

Trusted Sources of Information - LPHAs

- Immunize.org
- American Academy of Pediatrics
- World Health Organization
- CDC

Addressing Vaccine Hesitancy

- Vaccine champions
- Personalized conversations
- Clear & consistent communication
- Address concerns

Combat Misinformation

Public Health Nursing - Immunizations

Administration of routine and outbreak-response vaccines

Assess records & update CIIS

Deliver vaccination education



2025 YTD Highlights

- 41 clinics with 25 community partners
- Communicable Disease Response
- Measles Activation April 2025
 - Post Exposure Prophylaxis
 - Home testing
 - Quarantine Letters
 - CICT
- Continue work with Focus Team
- Initiated Field Delivered Therapy

Vaccinations Administered

	Kids	Adults	Total
January	91	69	160
February	37	15	52
March	93	41	134
April	157	42	199
May	80	21	101
June	34	17	51
Total	492	205	697

Next Steps

Continued engagement with schools & community partners

Expand IZ programming

Communicable disease planning



Questions?

Contact:

Alex.Vidal@denvergov.org