



For Immediate Release
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Chicago Measles Update

CHICAGO - CDPH continues to coordinate a comprehensive, city-wide response to the first measles cases in Chicago in five years, working with healthcare and community partners, other City agencies, and county, state and federal public health officials to contain the spread of the virus and protect new arrivals and all Chicagoans. The United States is currently experiencing a resurgence of measles, and cases have been reported in 17 states so far. Measles is a highly contagious and serious respiratory infection that causes a rash and high fever and is capable of leading to pneumonia and other complications and can be particularly concerning for babies and young children.

All Chicagoans are encouraged to review their immunization records or contact their healthcare provider to make sure they are up to date on the measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine. Immunization records recorded in the Illinois immunization registry can be accessed using the Illinois Department of Public Health [Vax Verify portal](#).

"I can't stress this enough: vaccination, vaccination, vaccination. Vaccination is our shield against preventable diseases like measles, COVID-19, rubella, varicella, and flu," said CDPH Commissioner Olusimbo 'Simbo' Ige, MD, MPH. "I urge all Chicagoans, whether new arrivals or not, to get vaccinated. If you and your children are vaccinated, you are not at high risk. But if not, please take action now to protect yourselves and your community."

Other developments in the measles response:

- CDPH has reported a total of 12 new cases of measles in the city in the last week, six adults and six children. Ten of the cases are related to new arrivals from a shelter in Pilsen, and two are unrelated to the new arrivals mission.
- Over the last days CDPH and partners have assessed nearly all the residents of the Pilsen shelter, vaccinating around 900 and confirming immunity for the remainder, meaning they were either previously vaccinated or had been infected so were protected. CDPH-coordinated teams have now moved on to other shelters throughout the city to provide vaccinations to those who have not yet received them.
- CDPH and the Office of Emergency Management and Communications are also maintaining a standing presence at the City's Landing Zone, providing vaccination for measles to individuals as they arrive in Chicago. New arrivals are screened and directed to follow-up care with Cook County Health or other partner providers if needed, with the most emergent cases receiving top priority. All new arrivals who have been vaccinated or provide proof of vaccination will be placed into temporary shelters.
- A team from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) arrived in Chicago Tuesday to support the efforts to curb spread of the highly infectious virus.
- Dr. Ige went on Facebook Live to talk about measles and the city's response, and answer questions from viewers. Dr. Ige was joined by two CDPH colleagues, Michelle Funk, DVM, MPH, Medical Director for Community Congregate Settings and the Disease Control Bureau, and Alexander Sloboda, MD, Medical Director of Immunization and Emergency Preparedness. You can see that episode at the following links: [Facebook](#) - [Twitter/X](#)

MMR vaccine is available at most doctor's offices and pharmacies. Illinois children as young as 7 years old can get vaccinated at pharmacies under Illinois law. CDPH Immunization clinics provide MMR vaccine for no out-of-pocket cost to any child 0–18 years and uninsured adults 19 and older. For more information on measles please visit the [CDPH website](#).