



MEDIA RELEASE

Public Health Announces New Measles Cases and Reinforces Holiday Prevention Measures

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 22, 2025

(Provo, UT)—The Utah County Health Department (UCHD) is sharing an update on measles activity in the community. Six additional measles cases have been identified in Utah County over the past week. All cases are in children aged 18 and under.

While the number of cases remains limited, UCHD is reminding residents of steps that help reduce the spread of illness—especially during the holiday season, when gatherings, travel, and indoor activities are more common.

Measles is a very contagious respiratory illness. The virus spreads through the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes and can remain airborne and on surfaces for up to two hours after that person has left the area. Because of this, measles can spread easily in homes, schools, workplaces, healthcare settings, and other shared spaces. Symptoms often include fever, cough, runny nose, red eyes, and a rash.

"Measles spreads much more easily than many people realize," said Eric Edwards, Utah County Health Officer. "Simple actions like staying home when you're sick and calling ahead before seeking medical care help protect others, especially during a busy time of year."

Vaccination is the best way to prevent measles and protect against serious illness. UCHD encourages residents to talk with their healthcare provider about measles vaccination and immunity.

To help limit the spread of measles and other respiratory illnesses, UCHD encourages community members to:

- Stay home when sick, especially if a fever or rash is present
- Call ahead before seeking medical care if measles is suspected
- Practice good hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette

Calling ahead before visiting a clinic, urgent care center, or emergency room allows healthcare providers to prepare for your arrival. It helps reduce the risk of exposure to others in waiting rooms and healthcare facilities.

UCHD will continue to monitor measles activity and share updates as appropriate. The department appreciates the community's efforts to help keep Utah County residents healthy during the holiday season.

For updates and more information about measles, please visit epi.utah.gov/measles-response/

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