



Portage County Combined General Health District

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Portage County Health District Confirms Measles Case in Portage County

RAVENNA, Ohio – The Portage County Health District (PCHD) has confirmed one case of measles in a Portage County resident. PCHD is working closely with the Ohio Department of Health to investigate the case and identify and notify individuals who may have been exposed.

At this time, PCHD has not identified any public exposure locations associated with this case. PCHD is continuing its investigation and will provide additional information if public exposure locations are identified.

“The confirmed case involves an individual who was not vaccinated against measles. Measles is a highly contagious disease, but it is also preventable through vaccination,” said Becky Lehman, Health Commissioner for the Portage County Health District. “Vaccination remains the best protection against measles. We encourage residents to review their vaccination records and contact their healthcare provider if they are unsure whether they are protected against measles.”

Individuals who are not vaccinated or are unsure whether they are fully protected against measles may contact the Portage County Health District at **330-296-9919** to discuss vaccination and schedule an appointment. Since July 1, 2026, PCHD has administered **69 MMR vaccinations in response to measles exposures in neighboring communities.**

If you believe you were exposed and develop symptoms, do not go directly into a healthcare facility, urgent care or emergency department without calling ahead. Calling ahead allows healthcare providers to take precautions to protect other patients and staff from potential exposure.

About Measles

Measles is a highly contagious disease caused by a virus. It spreads through the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes. The virus can remain infectious in an airspace for up to two hours after an infected person leaves. Up to 9 out of 10 people who are not protected against measles may become infected if exposed to someone with the disease.

A person with measles can spread the virus from approximately **four days before through four days after the rash appears**, meaning someone can spread measles before they know they have the disease.

Measles symptoms generally appear **7 to 14 days after contact with the virus** and commonly include:

- High fever, which may spike above 104°F
- Cough
- Runny nose
- Red, watery eyes
- Rash that typically develops 3 to 5 days after other symptoms begin

Measles can cause serious complications, including pneumonia and swelling of the brain (encephalitis), and can be especially dangerous for babies and young children.

What to Do if You Develop Symptoms

Individuals who develop symptoms consistent with measles should stay home and contact their healthcare provider immediately.

Do not arrive at a healthcare provider's office, urgent care or emergency department without calling ahead. Calling ahead allows healthcare facilities to take appropriate precautions to prevent exposing other patients and staff.

Individuals experiencing rapidly worsening or severe symptoms should seek emergency medical care. If emergency care is needed, call the healthcare facility before arriving and tell them that measles is suspected.

Protect Yourself and Your Family

The measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine is the best protection against measles. Two doses of MMR vaccine provide the best protection against the disease.

Individuals who are unsure of their vaccination status should review their immunization records or contact their healthcare provider to determine whether they are protected against measles.

People who know or believe they were exposed to measles should contact their healthcare provider or PCHD promptly. For individuals without evidence of immunity, certain post-exposure interventions may help prevent measles or reduce the severity of illness. Depending on the individual's circumstances, MMR vaccine may be recommended within 72 hours of exposure or immune globulin within six days of exposure.

PCHD will continue to monitor the situation and will provide additional information to the public if additional cases or public exposure locations are identified.

For additional information about measles, visit the [CDC Measles website](https://www.cdc.gov/measles/).

About the Portage County Health District

The Portage County Health District is committed to promoting health, preventing disease, and protecting the well-being of those who live, work, and learn in Portage County through education, prevention programs, and strong community partnerships. Learn more at www.portagehealth.net.

This is an evolving public health investigation. Information may be updated as additional details become available.

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