



## **Public Health Update: Measles in Kendall County**

February 13, 2026

### **Summary**

The Texas Department of State Health Services Public Health Region 8 has identified cases of measles in unvaccinated residents of Kendall and Bandera counties. The initial case was linked to out-of-state travel.

**DSHS urges clinicians to report any suspected measles cases immediately to your local or regional health department, preferably while the patient is in your presence.**

### **Background**

Measles is currently circulating widely in the United States, and in the past few weeks multiple cases have been identified within DSHS PHR 8, including several cases in Kendall and Bandera counties.

Measles is a highly contagious respiratory illness. The virus is transmitted by direct contact with infectious droplets or by airborne spread when an infected person breathes, coughs, or sneezes. Measles virus can remain infectious in the air for up to two hours after an infected person leaves an area. Illness onset (high fever, cough, runny nose, and red, watery eyes) begins a week or two after someone is exposed. A few days later, the telltale rash breaks out, usually appearing as flat, red spots on the face that then spread down the neck and trunk to the rest of the body. A person is contagious about four days before the rash appears to four days after. People with measles should stay home from work or school during that period.

The best way to prevent getting sick is to be immunized with two doses of a vaccine against measles, which is primarily administered as the combination measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine. Two doses of the MMR vaccine have been shown to prevent 97 percent of measles cases. Some vaccinated people can occasionally develop measles; however, they generally experience milder symptoms and are less likely to spread the disease to other people. Vaccination also helps protect those vulnerable to become very sick with measles, including children who are too young to be vaccinated. DSHS recommends children receive one dose of MMR vaccine at 12 to 15 months of age and another at 4 to 6 years.

### **Recommendations For Health Care Professionals:**

Healthcare providers should consider measles in patients presenting with the following symptoms:

- Fever  $\geq 101^{\circ}\text{F}$  ( $38.3^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) **AND**
- Generalized maculopapular rash lasting  $\geq 3$  days **AND**
  - Rash usually begins at the hairline/scalp and progresses down the body
- Cough, runny nose, or conjunctivitis **OR** Koplik spots (bluish-white specks on a red-rose background appearing on the buccal and labial mucosa usually opposite the molars).

**Immediately report any suspected measles cases** to your local health department (contact information below). If possible, please report while the patient is present to facilitate testing and the public health investigation, including follow-up of potential exposures.

### **Diagnostic Testing**

Testing for measles should be done for all suspected measles cases at the time of the initial medical visit:

- Measles PCR is recommended for diagnosis; testing is available at both the DSHS Laboratory and at commercial laboratories.
- **Providers must contact their local health department or DSHS regional office to coordinate testing at the DSHS Laboratory to ensure specimens are submitted correctly and meet testing requirements.**
- Unless coordinated in advance, specimens may only be received by the DSHS Laboratory during normal business hours Monday through Friday.

### **Controlling Outbreaks in Group Settings**

- People with confirmed or suspected measles should stay home from school, work, and other group settings until **after** the fourth day of rash onset.
- During an outbreak, people without documented immunity from vaccination or previous measles infection should be isolated from anyone with measles to protect those without immunity and control the outbreak. Additional information on school exclusion and readmission can be found at [School Communicable Disease Chart](#).
- According to the [Texas Administrative Code \(TAC\) Rule §97.7](#), schools and childcare settings shall exclude unimmunized children for at least 21 days after the last date the unimmunized child was exposed to a measles case.

### **Recommendations for the Public**

If you think you have measles or have been exposed to someone with measles, isolate yourself from others and call your healthcare provider before arriving to be tested so they can prepare for your arrival without exposing other people to the virus. Measles is extremely contagious and can cause life-threatening illness to

anyone who is not protected against the virus. Review your and your child’s vaccination history to see if you are up to date on your measles vaccines. Additionally, discuss with your provider your vaccination history and any questions about these vaccines.

**For more information or to report a suspected case, contact your local health department:**

County	Local Health Department	Contact Information
Bexar	San Antonio Metropolitan Health District	Phone: 210-207-8876
Comal	Comal County Public Health	Phone: 830-221-1150 After-hours: 210-949-2121
Victoria	Victoria County Public Health Department	Phone: 361-578-6281 After-hours: 210-949-2121
Most other Region 8 counties	<a href="#">Texas Department of State Health Services Public Health Region 8</a>	Phone: 210-949-2121

Find the public health reporting contacts for other counties at [www.dshs.texas.gov/idps-investigation-forms/disease-reporting-contacts](http://www.dshs.texas.gov/idps-investigation-forms/disease-reporting-contacts).

**For More Information:**

- [For Healthcare Professionals – Clinical Overview of Measles](#)
- [Interim Measles Infection Prevention Recommendations in Healthcare Settings | CDC](#)
- [Measles Infection Control in Healthcare Personnel | CDC](#)
- [Acceptable Presumptive Evidence of Immunity to Measles | MMWR](#)
- [ACIP Recommendations: Measles, Mumps and Rubella \(MMR\) Vaccine](#)
- [Measles – Manual for the Surveillance of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases | CDC](#)
- [Plan for Travel – Measles | CDC](#)
- [Laboratory Testing for Measles | CDC](#)
- [Measles Serology Testing | CDC](#)
- [CDC Measles Resources](#)
- [Global Measles Outbreaks | CDC](#)

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