



News Release - For immediate release
June 23, 2025

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Help Prevent Measles and Protect Special Children by Getting Up-to-Date with Vaccines

DOVER- As of June 19, 2025, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has confirmed 1,214 measles cases across 34 states this calendar year, and Ohio is one of the states affected. 95% of this year's measles cases were in people who were unvaccinated or did not know their vaccination status. While measles is highly contagious and can cause mild to severe symptoms, the good news is that vaccines are available to help. In fact, children who receive both recommended doses of the MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella) or MMRV (measles, mumps, rubella, and varicella) vaccine are very unlikely to get measles since the vaccine is 97% effective.

Vaccines are especially helpful for protecting vulnerable persons and special children from the measles virus. Certain groups are at higher risk for potentially life-threatening complications from measles, especially children ages 5 and younger, pregnant women, and people with immune systems that don't function properly. Measles infects the lungs and breathing passages like the nose, mouth, and throat, and spreads throughout the body. Measles symptoms can include coughing, high fevers, diarrhea, a runny nose, eye and ear infections, and a rash all over the body. Per CDC data, one out of five children who get measles will be hospitalized.


"Vaccination is the most effective way to avoid contracting measles and can also help limit the opportunity to spread the virus to others in our communities," explained Amy Kaser, Director of Nursing for the Tuscarawas County Health Department (TCHD). "Within two to three weeks of receiving the MMR vaccine, the immune system is ready to protect against measles."



The immune system has a variety of functions such as seeking and destroying viruses, bacteria, and other germs. The immune system can remember the germs and will fight them off more quickly if the germ enters the body again. By remembering the germ and sending antibodies quickly to destroy the germs, the individual may not get sick.



"Importantly, Vitamin A does not prevent measles, and taking high doses of vitamin A may be dangerous and lead to toxicity, which means it can become poisonous," stated Kaser. "Thankfully, measles can be prevented with the MMR vaccine, so our children don't have to face the serious, long-term effects of the disease."

Overall, vaccines are important to protecting children's health and preventing the spread of serious diseases. TCHD offers vaccination appointments for children of all ages and income levels. Services are covered through most private insurance plans. Thanks to a vaccine for children program grant from the Ohio Department of Health, appointments are also available for those without insurance, those who are underinsured, and those with Medicaid. If you would like to make an appointment, or would like more information about vaccines, please call 330-343-5555, ext. 1810, or visit the TCHD website at www.tchdnow.org.

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