

Oklahoma State Department of Health NEWS RELEASE



FOR RELEASE:
February 12, 2018

MEDIA CONTACT:

Tony Sellars
Director
Office of Communications
(405) 271-5601
TonyS@health.ok.gov

STAY CONNECTED!
#HealthyOklahoma



MEDIA QUESTIONS?

Contact the
Office of Communications
(405) 271-5601
Communications@health.ok.gov

Business Hours:
8am - 5pm

Creating a State of Health
www.health.ok.gov



Oklahoma State Department of Health Confirms Measles Case

The Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) and the Cleveland County Health Department are investigating a confirmed case of measles in Norman located in Cleveland County. This is the first confirmed case in Oklahoma since 2015.

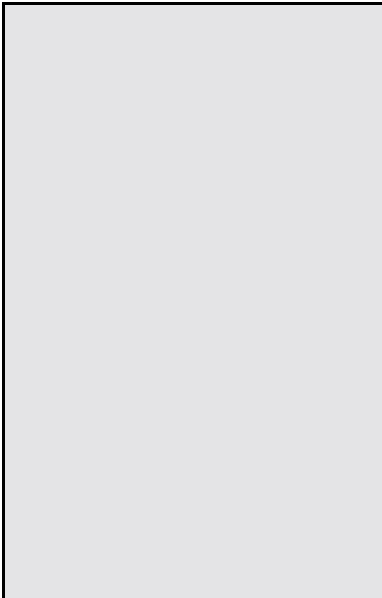
Measles was identified in a person who had returned to Oklahoma after international travel. Measles is a highly contagious respiratory disease and spreads through the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes. The virus may remain airborne up to 2 hours in a room after the person with measles has left an indoor area.

Based on collected information about the measles case during the time they were contagious, public health officials want to alert anyone who visited the following locations in Norman during the specified times about potential exposure to the measles virus:

- Norman Pediatrics (808 Wall Street, Norman, OK) during the following dates and times:
 - Friday, February 2 from 9:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.
 - Tuesday, February 6 from 11:15 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
- Chuck E Cheese's (2201 Interstate Drive, Norman, OK) on Saturday, February 3 from 12:45 – 3:30 p.m.
- Norman Regional HealthPlex (3300 HealthPlex Parkway, Norman, OK) on Tuesday, February 6 from 12:25 – 3:30 p.m. The specific areas include outpatient registration, emergency room waiting, and laboratory collection services.

The OSDH is collaborating with officials of these organizations to identify persons that may have visited the above mentioned locations to inform them of their exposure and provide recommendations. Persons are protected if they are immunized with two doses of a measles-containing vaccine after the first birthday, or if they were born during or before 1957. Those who think they may have been at risk of exposure should review their immunization records and contact the Cleveland County Health Department (405-321-4048 ext. 260), their local county health department or the OSDH epidemiologist-on-call at 800-234-5963 (24/7/365 availability).

Persons who are susceptible to measles usually develop symptoms about 10 days after exposure with a range of 7-21 days. Symptoms of measles begin with a mild to moderate fever, runny nose, red eyes, and cough. A few days later, a rash appears starting on the face spreading to the rest of the



body accompanied by a fever that can reach up to 105 degrees. Measles can lead to pneumonia and other complications, especially in young children and adults over 20. The disease can also cause serious problems in pregnant women and those with weakened immune systems.

Individuals that were exposed and are not experiencing symptoms of illness do not need to be evaluated by a healthcare provider. If you experience symptoms of illness suggestive of measles, contact your healthcare provider before presenting for care to discuss instructions for check-in and registration.

People with measles can spread the virus up to four days before the onset of the rash and until four days after the rash starts. Measles can be prevented with the measles vaccine (usually given in combination with rubella and mumps, called MMR vaccine), and is recommended for all children at 12 to 15 months of age and again at four to six years of age. If a person has not received a second dose of the vaccine between four to six years of age, the booster dose may be given at any age thereafter. Two doses of vaccine normally provide lifelong immunity.

###

[Top](#)

[Back to](#)



Your Oklahoma State Department of Health Subscriptions:

[Manage Subscriptions](#) | [Unsubscribe All](#) | [Contact the Health Department](#) | [Help](#)

This email was sent to aaronh@health.ok.gov using GovDelivery Communications Cloud on behalf of: Oklahoma State Department of Health · 1000 NE 10th · Oklahoma City, OK 73117 · 1-800-522-0203





Measles (Rubeola)

What is measles?

Measles is a highly contagious disease that is caused by the measles virus. It is also known as rubeola, seven-day measles, hard measles, or old-fashioned measles. Measles presents as a high fever and a red blotchy rash starting on the face that spreads to the rest of the body. The first confirmed case of measles in Oklahoma since 1997 was identified in March 2015.



Image courtesy of CDC

What are the symptoms of measles?

Symptoms of measles begin to appear about 7 to 14 days after a person is infected, but can be as long as 21 days.

Most cases start with a mild to moderate fever, cough, runny nose, red eyes, and sore throat. About three to five days later, a red rash appears. The rash begins at the hairline, then spreads down to the rest of the body. When the rash appears, the fever may be as high as 103°F to 105°F. Other symptoms may include Koplik's spots (tiny white spots with bluish-white centers in the mouth), and feeling run down or achy. Symptoms may last for one to two weeks. If you think you have symptoms of measles, contact your health care provider or county health department immediately.

What are the complications of measles?

Persons with measles can also develop diarrhea, ear infections, and/or pneumonia. In certain cases, encephalitis (swelling of the brain) or death can occur. It is most dangerous for children under five years of age, adults over 20 years of age, pregnant women, and persons with weakened immune systems.

How is measles spread, and how long can you spread measles to others?

Measles is passed from person-to-person by airborne droplets through coughing or sneezing. Measles can also be spread by contact with nose or throat secretions from ill persons, or touching a contaminated surface. Infected people can spread the virus four days before their rash starts to four days after. If you think you have been exposed to measles, please contact your health care provider or your county health department.

Is there a treatment for measles?

There is no treatment for measles. However, health care providers may treat the symptoms of measles with bed rest, plenty of fluids, and anti-fever medications.

How can I prevent myself and my family from getting measles?

Measles can be prevented by the measles vaccine (usually given in combination with rubella and mumps vaccines, or MMR vaccine), and is recommended for all children at 12 to 15 months of age and again at four to six years of age. If a person has not received a second dose of the vaccine between four and six years of age, it may be given at any age thereafter. The two doses of vaccine normally provide lifelong immunity.

Is the measles vaccine safe?

Yes, MMR is safe and effective in preventing measles. However, like other medicines, it can cause side effects in some persons. Contact your local health care provider or your county health department for more information about the vaccine.