



Measles Update

March 13, 2025

While there have been no reported cases in Winnebago County and/or Illinois to date, cases have been reported in other states in the U.S. including Texas, California, New Mexico, New Jersey, and New York.

Winnebago County Health Department (WCHD) is monitoring the situation and is advising healthcare providers to take protective measures now to prevent measles. Measles is extremely contagious and the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine is highly effective in preventing measles. With Spring break travel season coming up, healthcare providers should be alert for symptoms of measles and report any suspect or confirmed cases to WCHD.

If you suspect measles:

- **Immediately place the patient in airborne precautions.**
- Throat (oropharyngeal) or nasopharyngeal (NP) swabs are the preferred samples for the detection of measles RNA by RT-PCR.
- Provide post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) to unvaccinated individuals exposed to measles
 - MMR vaccine (within 72 hours of exposure) OR
 - Immunoglobulin (IG) (within 6 days of exposure)
- **DO NOT WAIT for lab results. Report the suspected case of measles **immediately** to the **Winnebago County Health Department at 815-720-4050.****

Measles typically begins with:

- High fever
- Cough
- Runny nose
- Red, watery eyes

Followed 3 to 5 days later by a characteristic rash of flat red spots starting at the head and moving distally

The **symptoms** of measles generally appear 7 to 14 days after a person is exposed, but can appear for up to 21 days. Individuals are considered contagious from 4 days before to 4 days after the rash appears.

Measles virus can remain infectious in the air and on surfaces for up to **2 hours** after an infected person leaves an area.

Additional Resources:

- CDC: [Measles](#)
- CDC: [Measles Vaccination Information](#)
- IDPH: [Measles Testing Instructions](#)