



News Release

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Background

Washington is experiencing an outbreak of measles in Clark County (41 current confirmed cases), with spread to King County and Multnomah County in Oregon. The State Department of Health is providing support for impacted communities and health departments. **There are currently no reported confirmed cases of measles in Yakima County.**

According to the World Health Organization a community needs a minimum of 90% of its members to be vaccinated to help prevent measles outbreaks. Our current Yakima County vaccination rate is 89.4%, but this does not reflect smaller pockets of individuals with much lower vaccination rates and with higher susceptibility to measles outbreak.

How to keep yourself and others safe

One of the most important things individuals can do to protect themselves, their families, Yakima County community members and the larger Washington State community against measles is to get vaccinated according to the recommended [immunization schedule](#). It is important that patients know their measles vaccination status and to get vaccinated if one has not already done so.

Individuals are considered **immune** and **NOT** a suspect for measles if:

- ✓ born before January 1st, 1957
- ✓ they are 12 months old through preschool-aged and have documentation of one MMR vaccine
- ✓ they are school-aged children or adults and have documentation of two MMR vaccines after 12 months of age and at least 28 days apart
- ✓ they have lab confirmed immunity to measles
- ✓ they have physician-documented history of measles disease

Recommendations for measles prevention:

- Check your immunization status by reviewing your immunization records at [Washington My IR](#). You can also access this information on the Washington State Department of Health website or call your health care provider to confirm vaccinations documented in your health record.

- If you or your family member are not fully vaccinated, contact your healthcare provider to schedule an appointment for this. If you do not currently have access to healthcare, contact a local pharmacy that administers MMR.
- If you have children that are uninsured, please take advantage of the [Vaccines for Children Program](#)
- If you worry you may have measles symptoms or have been exposed to a known measles case, **please call your health care provider before presenting for evaluation.** They will take appropriate precautions while caring for you to avoid transmission to other patients and staff.
- Follow general recommendations for preventing the spread of respiratory illnesses- cover your cough, wash hands frequently, and stay home from work/school/activities as much as possible to prevent further spread of infections.
- Follow the [Washington State Department of Health Measles website](#) or the [Clark County Measles website](#) for up-to-date information about measles activity in Washington State and about measles infection in general.
- Call your healthcare provider with questions about vaccination or symptoms

For more information:

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

Washington State Department of Health- Vaccination schedules in [English and Spanish](#)
[Washington My IR](#)

[Measles, Mumps, and Rubella \(MMR\) vaccine](#)

Yakima Health District [Immunizations](#) webpage

[Vaccines for Children Program](#)

[Local Pharmacy List](#) (call to find out which ones administer MMR)

[Tribal Services Support](#)

Follow the Yakima Health District on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and our [Yakima Health District website](#). Provider specific information is found on our [New Provider Resource Page](#).