

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

June 18, 2025

**Confirmed Case of Measles Identified in Grand Traverse County**

*GTCHD encourages residents and visitors to be current on Measles vaccinations*

The Grand Traverse County Health Department (GTCHD), in collaboration with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, has confirmed a single case of measles in Grand Traverse County. This is the first confirmed case of measles in the county since 2019.

After investigation by the health department, it has been determined that this Grand Traverse County resident had close exposure to an out-of-state traveler who was confirmed to be positive for measles. At this time, there are no known public exposures related to this Grand Traverse County case. Those identified by the health department who may have been directly or indirectly exposed have been contacted by the health department.

Measles is a highly contagious, vaccine-preventable disease that is spread by direct person-to-person contact and can live for up to 2 hours in the air after an infected person has left the area. Measles presents a significant public health concern when identified in our community. Nearly 90% of unvaccinated individuals who are exposed to measles will become infected. Infected individuals are contagious four days before the onset of rash and can continue to spread the virus up to four days after a very recognizable rash appears. Symptoms of measles usually begin 7-14 days after exposure, but can appear up to 21 days after exposure and may include:

- High fever (may spike to over 104°F).
- Cough.
- Runny nose.
- Red, watery eyes (conjunctivitis).
- Tiny white spots on the inner cheeks, gums, and roof of the mouth (Koplik Spots) appear two to three days after symptoms begin.
- A rash that is red, raised, blotchy; usually starts on the face, spreads to trunk, arms, and legs three to five days after symptoms begin.

Anyone who is concerned they may have symptoms of measles should contact their doctor, urgent care, or hospital before seeking treatment to ensure steps can be taken to prevent additional exposure to other individuals.

“This case is a reminder of how easily measles can spread and the importance of vaccination,” says Mike Lahey, MPH, Health Officer at GTCHD. “The vaccine is highly effective, and we strongly encourage our community to educate themselves about their immunization status and to get vaccinated if they are not protected.”

The GTCHD is hosting a walk-in clinic for measles vaccination on Friday, June 20th, from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the health department located at 2600 LaFranier Road in Traverse City. For more information or assistance, contact GTCHD at 231-995-6131.

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