

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

June 24, 2025

**Confirmed Measles Outbreak Identified in Grand Traverse County**

*GTCHD updates vaccination recommendations to include children ages 6-11 months*

The Grand Traverse County Health Department (GTCHD), in collaboration with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), has confirmed a measles outbreak, which is defined as three or more related cases of measles in a single county. GTCHD confirmed a third case of measles on June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025.

There are no new public exposure sites to be reported, and all confirmed cases in Grand Traverse County have been determined to be linked to one another by GTCHD. To protect the privacy of the individuals associated with this outbreak, additional details about these cases will not be shared.

Measles is a highly contagious, vaccine-preventable disease that spreads through direct person-to-person contact and through the air. Anyone who is not immune to measles is at risk. Measles symptoms usually appear seven to 14 days after contact with the virus but can take up to 21 days. Common symptoms can 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).
- A rash that starts as flat red spots on the face at the hairline, then spreads to the trunk, arms, and legs three to five days after symptoms begin. Small, raised bumps may also appear on top of the flat red spots.

“It is important that we, as the public health department, take action to protect, maintain, and improve the health of our community,” says Mike Lahey, MPH, Health Officer at GTCHD. “Measles is a serious disease, and we want to make sure that our residents and visitors are safe. Those who are not vaccinated against measles should consider getting vaccinated during this busy travel time in our community. It is important to make sure you protect yourself and your family from this vaccine-preventable disease.”

If you feel you may have been exposed, or if symptoms develop, **call the GTCHD or your health care provider before seeking treatment** so steps can be taken to prevent exposure to other individuals.

The best protection against measles is the MMR vaccine, which provides long-lasting protection against the virus. GTCHD strongly encourages individuals aged 1 year and older who have not received the MMR vaccine to do so promptly to protect themselves and others. Parents with children between 6 months and 1 year of age should talk to their health care provider or the GTCHD regarding options for vaccinating during an outbreak.

While we do not suspect widespread community transmission at this time, Grand Traverse County is considered an outbreak area, and parents could consider giving their 6-11-month-olds an early dose of the MMR vaccine. We encourage parents to discuss this with their providers or contact the GTCHD at 231-995-6800.

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