



## Measles Surveillance Advisory

### Issue

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that the US is experiencing a large outbreak of measles in several states including New York, New Jersey, Michigan, and Washington. [As of April 2019, 22 states have confirmed measles cases](#). There is the potential for local transmission of virus. No cases have been confirmed in active duty and family members.

### Background

Measles is highly contagious, is spread person to person and through the air, and can live for up to two hours in closed areas where an infected person coughs or sneezes. Measles begins with a fever that lasts for a couple of days, followed by a cough, runny nose, conjunctivitis (pink eye), and a rash. The rash typically appears first on the face, along the hairline, and behind the ears, and then affects the rest of the body. Symptoms usually start 7-14 days after becoming infected. Infected people are usually contagious from about 4 days before their rash starts to 4 days afterward. People at highest risk for severe illness from measles include infants and children less than 5 years of age, pregnant women, and people with compromised immune systems. To learn more, check out the CDC measles page: <https://www.cdc.gov/measles/index.html> or [Measles and the Vaccine \(Shot\) to Prevent It](#).

Measles is preventable by immunization with MMR vaccine. Vaccination remains the best prevention strategy. The vaccine is highly effective and very safe ([two doses of the vaccine is 97% effective](#) to prevent illness). Policy is in place covering vaccination of active duty members per [BUMEDINST 6230.15B](#). Active Duty Service Members are required to be vaccinated or demonstrate serological evidence of immunity. Those who are unvaccinated due to age or medical reasons must rely on avoiding exposure to the virus. Per [OPNAVINST 1700.9E](#), children attending Navy Child Development Centers or Child Development Homes shall be immunized per [recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices](#), which recommends 2 doses of MMR vaccine (at age 12–15 months and again at age 4-6 years).

Based on growing numbers of measles cases in the US, a heightened vigilance and taking action to prevent additional cases is recommended by rapidly identifying patients with suspected measles, implementing strict infection control measures (e.g., separation of patients and use of masks for suspected cases/ the unvaccinated), and conducting appropriate diagnostic testing.

### NMCPHC Surveillance and Reporting Guidance and Additional Resources

[Measles is a nationally notifiable disease](#) in the US. Navy policy per [BUMEDINST 6220.12C](#) and [NMCPHC-TM-PM 6220.12](#) requires all cases of measles reported within 24 hours. If you suspect a case, notify your cognizant [Navy Environmental and Preventive Medicine Unit](#) (NEPMU), and state or local health department. For case definitions, see the [Armed Forces Reportable Medical Events Guidelines and Case Definitions](#). Individual measles cases should be reported in [DRSi](#). Outbreak Reports should be submitted when a disease cluster or outbreak is suspected and updated as additional information becomes available. For more information on reporting medical events, [click here](#) or contact the DRSi helpdesk via e-mail at [usn.hampton-roads.navmcpublthcenpors.list.nmcphc-ndrs@mail.mil](mailto:usn.hampton-roads.navmcpublthcenpors.list.nmcphc-ndrs@mail.mil) or phone at 757-953-0737 (DSN 377-0737).