

Date: March 28, 2025

From: Kansas Department of Health and Environment – Division of Public Health

To: Kansas Health Care Providers, Laboratories, and Local Health Departments

RE: Kansas Measles Outbreak Resource Hub and Investigation Updates

Measles Outbreak Investigation Update

As of Wednesday, March 26, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) is reporting 23 positive cases of measles in six southwestern Kansas counties: Stevens, Morton, Grant, Haskell, Gray, and Kiowa. The confirmed cases in Kansas have a possible link to the outbreaks in Texas and New Mexico. While genetic sequencing of the first Kansas case reported is consistent with a link to the [Texas](#) and [New Mexico](#) outbreaks, the source of exposure is still unknown. KDHE, along with local health departments in the affected counties, are notifying individuals who may have been exposed. **Due to the highly contagious nature of measles, additional cases are likely to occur in the outbreak area in Kansas and in surrounding counties, especially among those that are unvaccinated.**

KDHE Measles Resource Hub

KDHE has updated our measles webpage (www.kdhe.ks.gov/measles) to serve as the central resource hub for all Kansas measles-related information. As part of this update, KDHE has also launched the [2025 Kansas Measles Outbreak Dashboard](#) which provides up-to-date data on the current measles outbreak, including the number of cases by county, hospitalizations, deaths, cases by age group, and vaccination status among cases. The dashboard will be updated every Wednesday and can be accessed through the measles webpage.

For the public, the www.kdhe.ks.gov/measles page includes details on signs and symptoms, frequently asked questions, tools for checking immunization records, and more.

For healthcare providers and local health departments, the webpage offers essential resources, including disease reporting requirements for suspected cases, a rapid measles assessment form to evaluate potential risks, and other critical guidance.

Reporting Requirements for Mandated Reporters and Laboratories

Mandated reporters, including clinicians, are required by Kansas Administrative Regulation ([K.A.R. 28-1-2](#)) to **report by phone all suspected cases of measles to the 24/7 KDHE Epidemiology Hotline (877-427-7317, option 5) within four (4) hours of suspicion** to facilitate testing and investigation. Reporting must occur before lab results are available, ideally while the patient is still in the office, to provide key details on symptoms, vaccination status, potential exposures, and to ensure correct specimens are collected for testing. Healthcare facilities using electronic case reporting (eCR) must still report by phone as eCR does not replace the required phone notification.

Laboratories are required by [K.A.R. 28-1-18](#) to report laboratory results of measles, including negative PCR results, to KDHE using an approved electronic method. Laboratories with electronic reporting questions should reach out to kdhe.epitrxadmin@ks.gov with any questions.

Local health departments are advised to take the following actions. Your proactive response and collaboration are vital to protecting public health in Kansas.

- Share this alert with healthcare providers, hospitals, and clinics in your county to ensure they are informed and prepared.
- Ensure that you have appropriate testing and shipping supplies including nasopharyngeal swabs, viral transport media, and cold shippers. If you need assistance with ordering supplies from KHEL, please contact KHEL Customer Service at 785-296-1620 or kdhe.khel_help@ks.gov.
- Promptly report all suspected cases of measles, including any rule out cases, immediately to the KDHE Epidemiology Hotline and encourage mandated reports to do the same.
- For any questions or further clarification on measles, please reach out to the KDHE Epidemiology Hotline at kdhe.epihotline@ks.gov.
- For any vaccine-related questions, please reach out to the Kansas Immunization Program at kdhe.vaccine@ks.gov.