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The Politics of the Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR) Vaccine

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According to current [CDC data](#), over 483 cases of measles have been confirmed in the US in the first 3 months of 2025. Yes, this includes Florida! This far exceeds the number for all of 2024.

Almost all these cases occurred in people who were not vaccinated. Vaccine coverage for measles with the MMR vaccine has decreased over the last 5 years, leaving hundreds of thousands of school children across the country at risk of becoming seriously ill from a highly contagious disease—one that can't be treated but can be prevented. Full vaccination as a child confers lifelong immunity and is 97% effective.

As a mother and a health care provider evaluating the science behind the MMR vaccine, it is clear that the MMR vaccine is safe. Consider these points:

- Pregnancy and a few other health conditions are the only indications to defer vaccination.
- Scientists from around the world have investigated the safety of the vaccine for decades and found only mild side effects, like any other vaccine.
- After extensive global research, including over a million children, there is no proven link between the MMR vaccine and autism.
- The global scientific community, including autism organizations, has made strong statements supporting vaccination.
- The American Academy of Pediatrics and Autism Speaks are two examples of the many organizations that recommend the MMR vaccine for children.

Health care has become politicized. Conservative leaders have denounced vaccines, including the MMR vaccine. As a result, polls show that Republicans are more likely to avoid vaccines. Measles cases are now on the rise. It is time for people to put their trust in the scientific and medical community of health care providers over politicians regarding health care. It is a matter of life and death.

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