



# What You Should Know About Measles



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

## What is Measles?

Measles is a highly contagious virus that lives in the nose and throat mucus of an infected person. It can spread to others through coughing and sneezing. Also, measles virus can live for up to two hours in an airspace where the infected person coughed or sneezed. If other people breathe the contaminated air or touch the infected surface, then touch their eyes, noses, or mouths, they can become infected. Measles is so contagious that if one person has it, up to 90% of the people close to that person who are not immune will also become infected.

## What are the Symptoms of Measles?

### MEASLES SYMPTOMS TYPICALLY INCLUDE

- High fever (may spike to more than 104° F)
- Cough
- Runny nose
- Red, watery eyes
- Rash breaks out 3-5 days after symptoms begin



## Measles Can Be Serious



About 1 out of 4 people who get measles will be hospitalized.



1 out of every 1,000 people with measles will develop brain swelling due to infection (encephalitis), which may lead to brain damage.

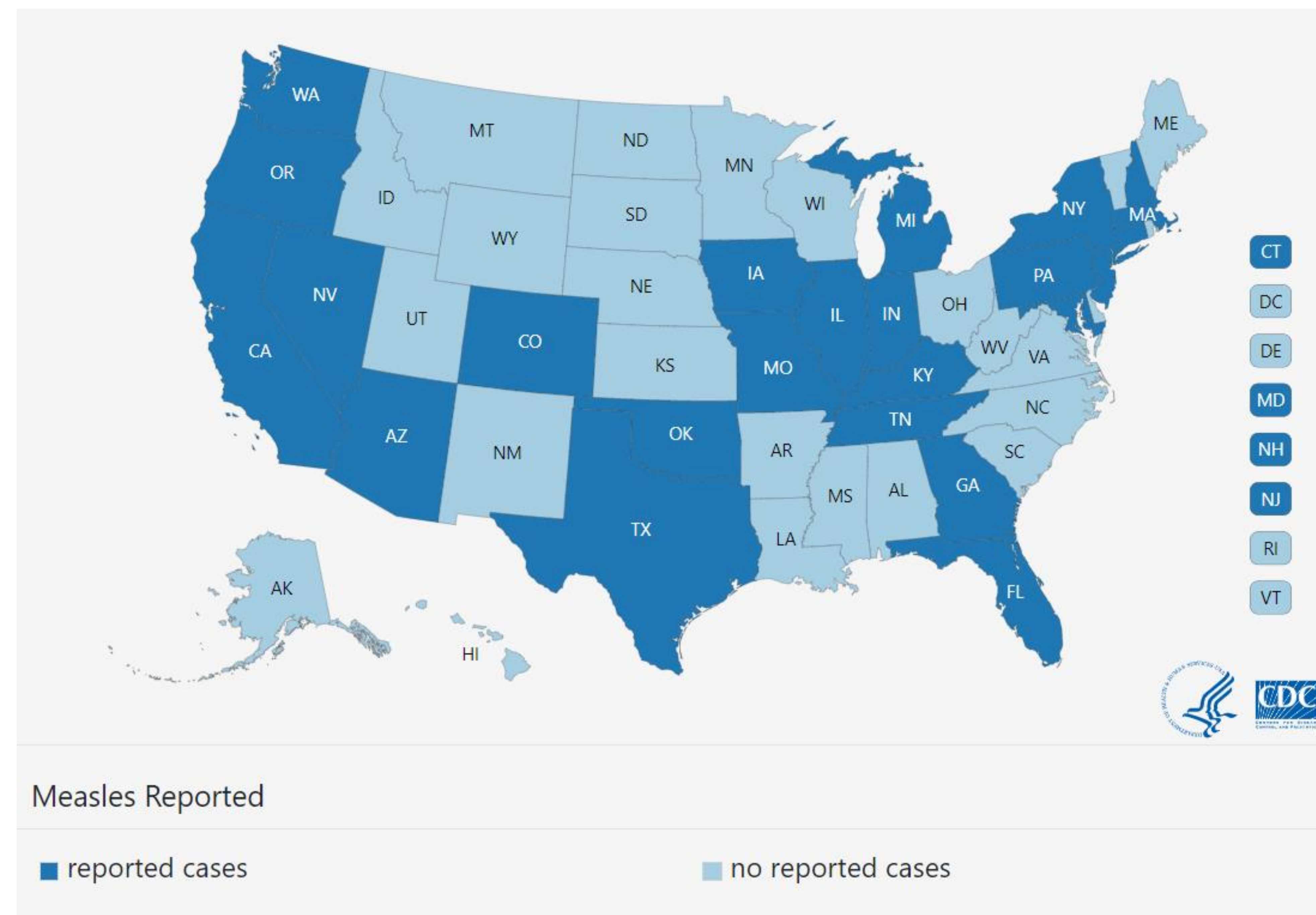


1 or 2 out of 1,000 people with measles will die, even with the best care.

## Measles Cases in 2019

From January 1 to May 17, 2019, 880\*\* individual cases of measles have been confirmed in 24 states. This is an increase of 41 cases from the previous week. This is the greatest number of cases reported in the U.S. since 1994 and since measles was declared eliminated in 2000. (\*\* As of May 17, 2019)

## States with Reported Measles Cases in 2019



## Spread of Measles

- The majority of people who got measles in 2019 so far were unvaccinated.
- Measles is still common in many parts of the world.
- Travelers with measles continue to bring the disease into the U.S.
- Measles can spread when it reaches a community in the U.S. where groups of people are unvaccinated.

## Frequently asked Questions

### Is the Measles (MMR) vaccine Effective?

The measles vaccine is very effective. Two doses of measles vaccine are about 97% effective at preventing measles if exposed to the virus. One dose is about 93% effective.

### Can I still get Measles if I am fully vaccinated?

About three out of 100—who get two doses of measles vaccine will still get measles if exposed to the virus. Experts aren't sure why. It could be that their immune systems didn't respond as well as they should have to the vaccine. But the good news is, fully vaccinated people who get measles are much more likely to have a milder illness. And fully vaccinated people are also less likely to spread the disease to other people, including people who can't get vaccinated because they are too young or have weakened immune systems.

### I only got one dose of Measles vaccination as a child. Do I need a second dose?

If you were born after 1957 you need at least one dose of measles vaccine unless a laboratory confirmed that you had past measles infection or are immune to measles. Adults who are going to be in a setting that poses a high risk for measles transmission should make sure they have had two doses separated by at least 28 days. These adults include

- students at post-high school education institutions
- healthcare personnel
- international travelers
- people who public health authorities determine are at increased risk for getting measles during a measles outbreak

## For More information

Call the Township of Mount Olive  
Health Department at 973-691-0900 ext. 7330  
Created by the Township of Mount Olive Health Department.  
\*Information from: <https://www.cdc.gov/measles>

