



2/27/2025

Subject: Important Health Notice for Parents Regarding the Ongoing Measles Outbreak in Texas

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Dallas County Health and Human Services (DCHHS) is closely monitoring an active measles outbreak in Texas. Tragically, the state has reported the first death of a child from measles, a heartbreaking reminder of how dangerous this disease can be. Measles is one of the most contagious viruses, spreading through the air and lingering in indoor spaces for hours. It can cause severe complications, including pneumonia, brain swelling, and even death—especially in young children and individuals with weakened immune systems. Unvaccinated individuals are at the highest risk of contracting and spreading the disease.

To help prevent the spread of measles, we urge you to take the following steps now:

1. Check your child's vaccination records. The Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) vaccine is the best protection against measles. If your child has not received two doses, contact your pediatrician or a local health clinic to schedule vaccination. The MMR vaccine is safe, highly effective, and widely available.
2. Be aware of measles symptoms, which include fever, cough, runny nose, red eyes, and a rash that spreads over the body.

Given the severity of this outbreak, we want to inform you of the potential consequences if a measles case is identified on your child's school campus, especially if your child is not vaccinated. If a case of measles is identified at your child's school, DCHHS will work with school officials to protect students, staff, and the community. If your child is not vaccinated, they may be subject to the following measures:

1. **Exclusion from School:** Texas law requires the exclusion of unvaccinated students exposed to measles under Texas Administrative Code, Rule 97.7. These students must stay home for up to 21 days, the length of the incubation period, to prevent further spread of the virus.
2. **Medical Follow-Up:** Parents will be advised to seek immediate medical evaluation for their child. In some cases, post-exposure vaccination or immune globulin treatment may be recommended within a limited timeframe.
3. **Impact on Education and Activities:** Exclusion from school may disrupt your child's learning and participation in extracurricular activities. These measures are based on public health guidelines and are necessary to protect vulnerable populations, including infants, pregnant individuals, and those with weakened immune systems who cannot be vaccinated.

For more information on measles, the MMR vaccine, or to find vaccination services, please visit <https://www.dallascounty.org/departments/dchhs/communicable-diseases/measles.php> or contact DCHHS at (972) 692-2780.

We understand that this may cause concern, but we are committed to keeping your children and our schools safe. Your support in ensuring vaccination and following health guidelines is crucial to protecting our community. Thank you for your partnership in promoting health and safety.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philip Huang".

Philip Huang, MD, MPH
Director/Health Authority
Dallas County Health and Human Services