



DEKALB COUNTY
Department of Health

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DeKalb County Health Department Addresses Measles Exposure at Local School

4/9/2025 — The DeKalb County Department of Health (DCDH) is working with Garrett-Keyser-Butler Community Schools and the Indiana State Board of Health following a measles exposure at J.E. Ober Elementary School in Garrett.

The exposure at the school is linked to a measles outbreak in Allen County. DCDH and the school are working to take the necessary precautions. No cases have been confirmed in DeKalb County, and students and staff who may have been exposed have been contacted.

While the risk to the general public is low, measles is an easily spread respiratory disease caused by a virus. As of April 3, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has reported a total of 607 confirmed cases in 22 jurisdictions across the United States.

Dr. Mark Souder, Health Officer of the DeKalb County Department of Health states, "It is extremely unfortunate that, in the interest of public safety and ensuring that there is no actual outbreak in DeKalb County, that some of the school activities at Garrett will need to be canceled or delayed."

Because measles is so easily spread, a single case is considered an outbreak. When infected people sneeze or cough, droplets spray into the air. Those droplets remain infective in the air and on surfaces for up to two hours.

More than 93 percent of people who receive a single dose of MMR will develop immunity to measles, and more than 97 percent will be protected after receiving a second dose. Two doses of the vaccine are needed to be fully protected. Individuals are encouraged to check with their healthcare providers to ensure vaccinations are up to date. Individuals born before 1957 are presumed to be immune to measles.

Children are routinely vaccinated for measles at 12-15 months, and again at 4-6 years of age before going to kindergarten, but children as young as 6 months old can receive the measles vaccine if they are at risk.

"Unvaccinated people that become quickly vaccinated will have an improved course if they actually are coming down with measles. Therefore, it is highly recommended that unvaccinated people get a vaccine as soon as possible, including those that need a second vaccination," Dr. Souder says.

Measles begins with a fever, cough, runny nose and red eyes usually about 7 to 14 days after exposure to measles but can occur up to 21 days. The fever increases and can get as high as 105 degrees. Tiny white spots (Koplik spots) may appear inside the mouth two to three days after symptoms begin. Then two to four days after symptoms begin, a rash starts on the hairline and face. It spreads down the back and torso, and then extends to the arms and hands, as well as the legs and feet. After about five days, the rash fades the same order in which it appeared.

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If you are experiencing symptoms of measles, stay home and call your healthcare provider right away before going to the doctor's office. Be prepared to describe your symptoms and alert your doctor if you think you have been in contact with an infected person. If you are ill with measles, stay home and away from others, especially unvaccinated infants, people with diseases affecting their immune systems, and pregnant women.

Please visit the [IDOH website](#) or the [CDC website](#) for more information about measles.

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