

Increase in Reported Measles Cases

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has reported an increase in the number of reported measles cases in the United States. These cases involved unvaccinated people who were exposed to measles through travel outside the country.

Measles is a highly contagious, acute viral illness that is transmitted by contact with an infected person through coughing and sneezing. After an infected person leaves a location, the virus remains contagious for up to two hours on surfaces and in the air. Measles can cause severe health complications, including pneumonia, encephalitis, and death.

The way to avoid infection by exposure is to be immunized against measles with the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine. Please contact your medical provider or the Halifax County Health Department for determination of vaccinations that may be needed or updated. For more information, please call the Halifax County Health Department at 252-583-5021.