Pennsylvania measles update 2026

Pennsylvania
Department of Human Services

October 19, 2026

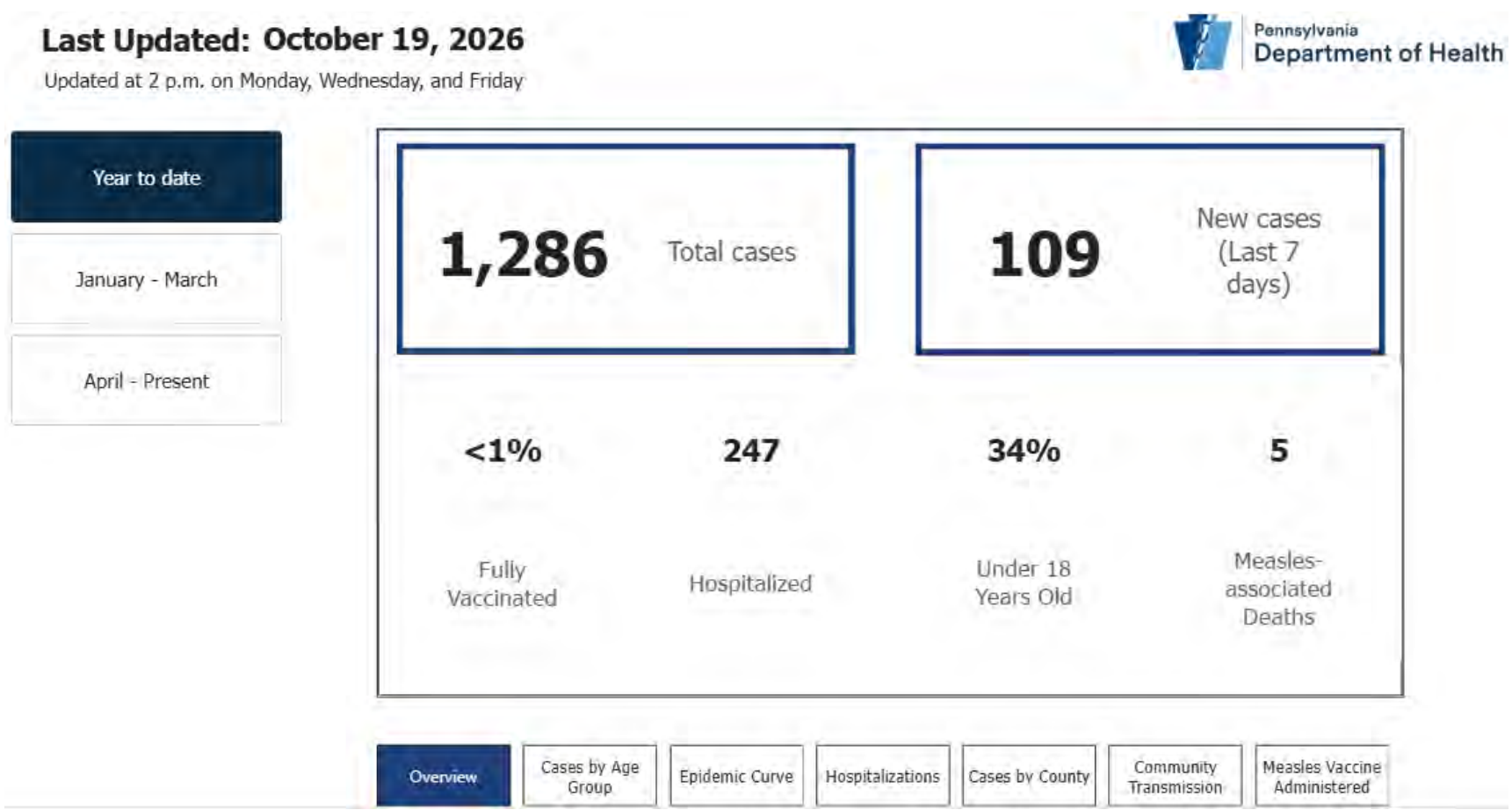
Confirmed Measles Cases in Pennsylvania

Summary:

- Pennsylvania Department Of Health reported 1,286 confirmed cases in 43 counties, 247 hospitalizations, and five confirmed measles-associated deaths in 2026. A reported death in Franklin County remains under investigation and is not included in the five confirmed deaths. For current case counts and counties with sustained community transmission, visit the PA DOH Measles Dashboard.
- The dashboard provides updates and case counts by county.
- The dashboard identifies counties with sustained community transmission of measles along with other important disease statistics and information.

Measles Dashboard

Pennsylvania
Department of Human Services



Measles Dashboard

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Last Updated: October 19, 2026

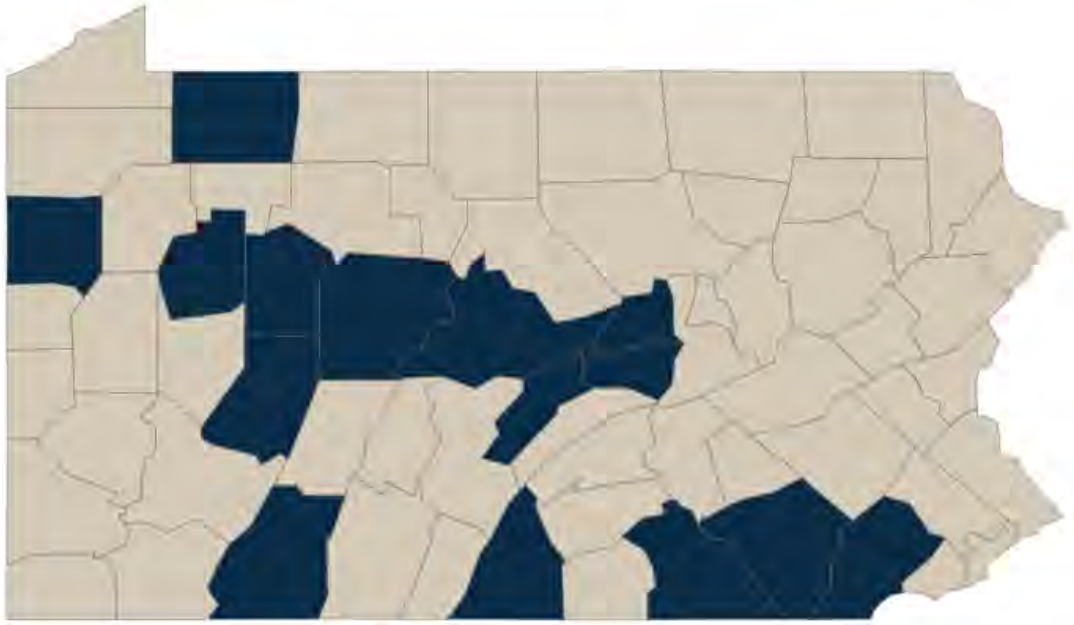
Updated weekly at 2 p.m. each Monday

Pennsylvania
Department of Health

The Department of Health reviews data from each county weekly to see if measles is spreading within the community. Community transmission means measles is spreading beyond a single household and is not tied to a case from another county. In short, it shows that measles is spreading locally. Individuals living or traveling to counties with community transmission may need to take extra steps, like catch up or early MMR vaccination.

The Pennsylvania Department of Health has determined that the following counties in PA have evidence of community transmission of measles:

County
Centre
Chester
Clarion
Clearfield
Franklin
Indiana
Jefferson
Lancaster
Mercer
Mifflin
Snyder
Somerset



No Community Transmission ● Community Transmission

Overview | Cases by Age Group | Epidemic Curve | Hospitalizations | Cases by County | **Community Transmission** | Measles Vaccine Administered

During outbreaks, early, accelerated and catch-up vaccination is encouraged for people who live in or plan to visit areas where there is sustained community transmission of measles:

- Infants 6 through 11 months should get one early dose of measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine. They should still receive their routine doses at 12–15 months and 4–6 years.
- Children older than 1 year who have not yet received any measles vaccine should get two doses at least 28 days apart. Children who already received one dose should get their second dose now if it has been at least 28 days since their first dose.
- Adults with no evidence of immunity should get two MMR doses at least 28 days apart. Adults and teens who already received one dose should get a second dose at least 28 days after their first dose.

What should I do?

Continue to maintain a high index of suspicion for measles in individuals presenting with fever and rash, especially in those who are unvaccinated.

- Immediately report suspected measles cases to local public health authorities or to DOH at 877-PA-HEALTH (877-724-3258). Providers should not wait for lab confirmation to notify public health if measles is suspected.

What is Measles:

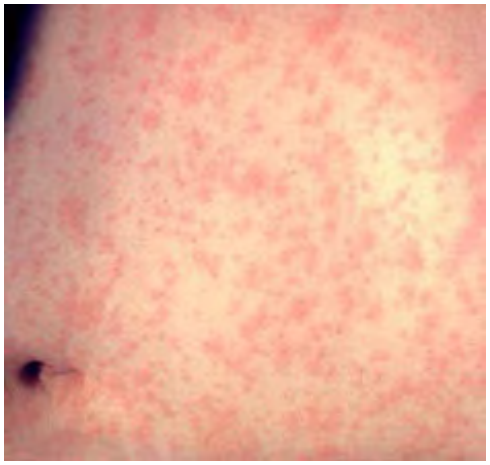
- Measles is an extremely contagious virus that lives in the mucus membranes of the nose and throat of infected people, according to health experts. The virus can be transmitted from person to person through coughing and sneezing. When an infected person sneezes or coughs, droplets spray into the air and those droplets can contain an active and contagious virus which will remain in the air and on surfaces for up to two hours. A healthy person can also be infected with the measles if they breathe the contaminated air or touch an infected surface and then touch their eyes, nose, or mouth.

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Symptoms of a Measles infection:

- Measles normally begins with a fever (100.4 or higher) that lasts for several days. That's followed by a cough, runny nose, and watery eyes. Two to three days after the symptoms begin, tiny white spots may appear in the mouth. Three to five days after symptoms begin, a flat red spotted rash appears on the face at the hairline and spreads downward to the neck, trunk, arms, legs, and feet. The flat red spots may also be joined by small, raised bumps. Symptoms appear about seven to 14 days on average after exposure, but the appearance of symptoms may take as long as 21 days.



Measles symptoms typically include:

- high fever
- cough
- runny nose (coryza)
- red, watery eyes (conjunctivitis)
- rash breaks out 3-5 days after symptoms begin.

Are Measles serious?

- Measles can be serious at all ages, but children less than 5 and adults over 20 are more likely to have complications. Complications include:
- Ear infection that can result in permanent hearing loss.
  - Diarrhea requiring hospitalization.
  - Pneumonia – this is the most common cause of death in children.
  - Swelling of the brain- that may lead to brain damage.
  - Pregnant women may have their babies early and the baby's weight may be low.
  - Of every 1,000 people who get measles 1-2 of them will die.

How does measles spread to other people?

- Infected people can spread measles to others from 4 days before through 4 days after the rash appears.
- It can spread to others through coughing and sneezing.
- When someone sneezes or coughs the virus can live for up to 2 hours in the air.
- If other people breathe the contaminated air or touch the infected surface, then touch their eyes, noses, or mouths, they can become infected.
- More than 90% of the people close to an infected person who have not been vaccinated against measles will also become infected.

Can measles be prevented?

- Receiving the Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) vaccination can prevent measles. See your health care provider for more information related to the measles vaccination.
- The American Academy of Family Physicians, and the American Academy of Pediatrics strongly recommend children receive all vaccines according to the recommended schedule.
- The best protection against measles is getting fully vaccinated. The MMR vaccine, administered over two doses, boosts a person's immune system and provides 97% lifetime protection.

Resources

- About Measles - CDC
- Measles Infographic - CDC
- Measles information for healthcare providers - CDC
- Measles | Red Book: 2024–2027 Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases | Red Book Online | American Academy of Pediatrics
- Measles Vaccine Recommendations- CDC
- Infection control guidelines for measles- CDC
- Measles Clinical Diagnosis Fact Sheet- CDC
- Surveillance manual chapter on measles- CDC
- Measles Dashboard- PA DOH

Respiratory Virus Update

Pennsylvania
Department of Human Services

US Center for Disease Control and Prevention Respiratory Illnesses Data Channel:

The Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) is sharing this important update from the CDC as of October 16, 2026, regarding respiratory illnesses across the state of Pennsylvania.

Your community snapshot

Respiratory illness activity in Pennsylvania:



What it is: A measure of how frequently a wide variety of respiratory symptoms and conditions are diagnosed by emergency department doctors, ranging from the common cold to COVID-19, flu, and RSV.

Why it matters: Summarizes the total impact of respiratory illnesses, regardless of which diseases are causing people to get sick.

Respiratory illness activity levels map »

Learn about this measurement »

Respiratory Virus Update

Pennsylvania
Department of Human Services

Emergency department visits in Pennsylvania

Covid 19	Flu	RSV
Very Low	**Very Low**	**Very Low**
No Change	Increasing	No Change

What it is: A measure of how many people are seeking medical care in emergency departments.

Why it matters: When levels are high, it may indicate that infections are making people sick enough to require treatment.

Emergency department visit trends »
Learn about this measurement »

Respiratory Virus Update

Pennsylvania
Department of Human Services

Community viral activity level in Pennsylvania

COVID-19	Flu **	RSV
Low	Very Low	Very Low

What it is: A measure of viral activity in the community through testing wastewater (sewage).

Wastewater monitoring can detect viruses infecting people in a community.

Why it matters: When levels are high, it might indicate that there is a higher risk of infection.

Community viral activity level map »
Learn about this measurement »
This and additional information is available at Respiratory Illnesses Data Channel | Respiratory Illnesses | CDC

Upcoming Events

Pennsylvania
Department of Human Services

Dual Diagnosis Conference

- The Dual Diagnosis Conference will be held **April 13th and 14th 2027 in-person at the Penn Stater**.
- The conference is covering complex care across the lifespan.
- Call for proposals sent out.
- Anyone who has suggestions for speakers with availability to participate should contact Amy Nemirow at c-anemirow@pa.gov as soon as possible.

Upcoming Events

Pennsylvania
Department of Human Services

Professional Conference Series

- The next meeting in the Professional Conference Series will be held on **November 12th, 2026 from 10 AM to 1:30 PM virtually.**
- TITLE: Testing and Assessment for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities/Autism (ID/A) and Mental Health Conditions
- Morning Session: Assessment of Mental Health Conditions in People with ID/A.
- Afternoon Session: Psychological Testing for People with ID/A and Mental Health Conditions
- Jointly hosted by The Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS) and the Office of Developmental Programs (ODP).

Statewide Positive Practices

- The next meeting in the Statewide Positive Practices series will take place on **October 29th, 2026.from 10 AM to 1:30 PM**.
- This specific training is designed for behavioral specialists, IBHS providers, supports coordinators, and AE and county staff across the ODP system. Participants will examine what a quality functional behavioral assessment looks like and how assessment findings translate into effective behavioral support plans and daily practice.
- Jointly hosted by the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS) and the Office of Developmental Programs (ODP), this quarterly meeting aims to provide the most recent research and resources for people with mental health and behavioral challenges, intellectual disabilities, autism, and other developmental disabilities to live an everyday life.

Move Your Way

Pennsylvania
Department of Human Services



Celebrating Move Your Way® Day With Brian's House

Move Your Way

Pennsylvania
Department of Human Services

WELCOME HEALTHY ATHLETES EVENT

SATURDAY | NOV. 14, 2026

10 am - 5 pm @ Villanova University

*except for vision screening, which is 10 am - 4 pm

To register and secure your spot, click here or use the QR code below





REGISTER HERE

A free day of health screenings, resources, giveaways and opportunities to get connected to 21 free sports and fitness opportunities offered by Special Olympics PA for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities ages 8 and up.

Move Your Way® *for Mental Heath*

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Questions

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