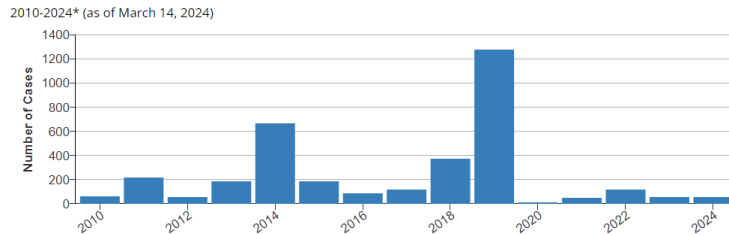


On March 18th (Monday), the [CDC](#) issued a health advisory to increase awareness of the global and domestic measles cases and outbreaks, with recommendations for vaccination. Measles is a highly contagious disease – it is estimated that 9 out of 10 people who are not protected will become infected following exposure.

Number of measles cases reported by year

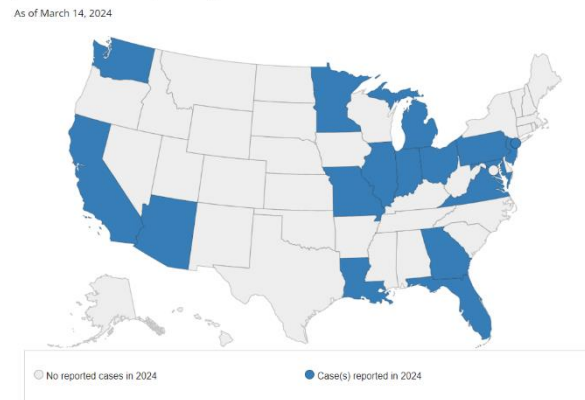


Measles was declared eliminated in the United States in 2000. The CDC defines elimination as the absence of continuous disease transmission for 12 months or more in a specific geographic area – meaning it is no longer constantly present in the U.S. However, importations of measles cases continue, shown in the bar chart on the left.

As of March 14, 2024, a total of 58 measles cases were reported by 17 jurisdictions: Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, New York City, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Washington. In comparison to the first few months of 2024, there were 58 cases in the entire year of 2023.

Among the 58 cases reported in 2024, 54 (93%) were linked to international travel. Additionally, most cases reported in 2024 have been among children aged 12 months and older who had not received the MMR vaccine. Many countries, including travel destinations such as Austria, the Philippines, Romania, and the United Kingdom, are experiencing measles outbreaks.

Jurisdictions Reporting Cases in 2024



To prevent measles infection and reduce the risk of community transmission from importation, the [CDC recommends](#) all U.S. residents traveling internationally, regardless of destination, should be current on their MMR vaccinations. The MMR vaccine protects against measles, mumps, and rubella. The vaccine is very effective in preventing measles. Two doses of MMR vaccine are about 97% effective at preventing measles; one dose is about 93% effective.

Children are recommended to receive their first dose of the MMR vaccine at age 12-15 months and the second dose at 4-6 years. CDC does not recommend measles vaccine for infants younger than 6 months of age. Infants 6-11 months and children 12 months and older traveling outside the U.S. should follow another schedule, available [here](#).

Given currently high population immunity against measles in most U.S. communities, the risk of widescale spread is low. Massachusetts has very high school immunization rates. For example, in Worcester County, 96.3% of kindergarten students have 2 doses of the MMR vaccine, which increases to 98.3% among Grade 7 students. This data is from the Massachusetts School Immunization Survey 2022-2023, available [here](#). CDC data suggests when more than 95% of people in a community are vaccinated, most people are protected through community immunity, also referred to as herd immunity.

To learn more about the measles outbreak, click [here](#) for CDC data. To read the official CDC Health Advisory, click [here](#).