



Fairfield County
**Health
Department**

R. Joseph Ebel RS, MS, MBA
Health Commissioner

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY
Measles Outbreak
November 15, 2022

Sixteen measles cases have been confirmed in Columbus and Franklin County over the past five months, the first cases in our community in 20 years.

While the initial four cases had history of international travel to countries currently experiencing measles outbreaks, the 12 most recent cases did not travel and are not directly connected to the previous four cases. This development is deeply concerning and indicates ongoing community transmission of measles.

All recent cases have occurred in unvaccinated young children who were old enough to have received the very safe and highly effective measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine.

Clinicians are urged to consider measles in the differential diagnosis of febrile rash illness, especially in those who have not been immunized with MMR vaccine.

All unvaccinated people born during or after 1957 are potentially susceptible to measles which is one of the most contagious of all infectious diseases. People with measles are infectious for four days before until four days after rash onset.

Health care providers who suspect measles should immediately isolate the patient in an airborne infection isolation room (AIIR) if available and promptly report to the Fairfield County Health Department (FCHD). FCHD can facilitate consultation and testing with the Ohio Department of Health for patients who meet the clinical and epidemiologic criteria as possible measles cases.

Guidance about specimen collection is detailed at <https://www.cdc.gov/measles/lab-tools/index.html>.

For any questions or concerns please contact Gale Neville, MSN, RN Infectious Disease Nurse at (740) 652-2828 or gale.neville@fairfieldcountyohio.gov