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DISEASE ALERT

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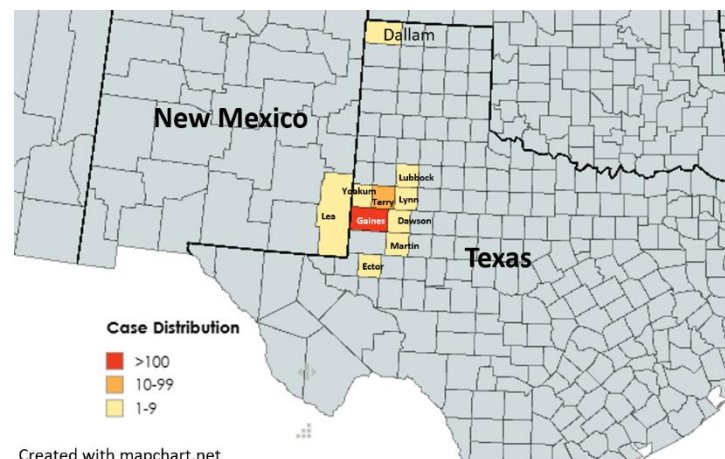
March 6, 2025 | Issue No. 15

First alert: March 6, 2025 | **Measles Outbreak in Texas, US**

Sub-Locations Affected

Texas (Dallam County, Dawson County, Ector County, Gaines County, Lubbock County, Lynn County, Martin County, Terry County, Yoakum County)

New Mexico (Lea County),



Distribution of Measles cases in Texas and New Mexico

Event Description

On February 26, 2025, the Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS) confirmed the first measles-related death in the ongoing outbreak. As of March 4, 2025, a total of 159 cases, including 22 hospitalizations and one death, have been identified since late January.

Epidemiological Information

- On January 23, 2025, the Houston Health Department (HHD) confirmed two measles cases in Harris County residents—the first reported in Texas since 2023. Both individuals, from the same household, were unvaccinated and had recently returned from international travel.
- On February 5, 2025, the TDSHS reported an outbreak in Gaines County, involving six cases identified with symptom onset within the previous two weeks, all among unvaccinated school-aged children.
- On February 14, New Mexico, which borders Texas's Gaines County, reported two measles cases in adult residents of Lea County. As of March 4, 2025, the case count has risen to nine, with no hospitalizations, according to the New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH).

- On February 25, 2025, the TDSHS reported 124 confirmed cases of measles in the ongoing outbreak in the South Plains and Panhandle regions.
- **On February 26, 2025, the TDSHS confirmed the first measles-related death** involving a school-aged child who had not received MMR vaccines. The child was hospitalized in Lubbock in the previous week and tested positive for measles.
- On March 4, 2025, TDSHS reported a measles outbreak in the South Plains region of Texas, bringing the total to 159 cases, including 22 hospitalizations.

Response Measures

- Texas DSHS urged healthcare providers to assess measles in patients with fever $\geq 38.3^{\circ}\text{C}$, a maculopapular rash lasting ≥ 3 days (starting at the hairline and spreading downward), and cough, runny nose, or conjunctivitis, or *Koplik spots* (bluish-white specks on a red-rose background), especially in those with recent international travel or known exposure.
- To rapidly boost measles immunity and prevent further spread in affected communities, Texas DSHS recommends MMR vaccinations for Gaines County residents, particularly infants, children, the unvaccinated, those with incomplete doses, and individuals without immunity, in line with CDC guidelines.
- The Texas DSHS is working with local health departments in that area to investigate cases, provide immunizations where needed, and keep the public informed.
- The New Mexico DOH has launched a dedicated web resource to address the rising measles cases within state boundaries.

Sources:

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3. Texas Health and Human Services. (2025, February 5). *Measles Outbreak in Gaines County, Texas*. Retrieved March 6, 2025, from <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/news-alerts/confirmed-case-measles-january-2025>
4. Texas Health and Human Services. (2025, February 26). *Texas announces first death in measles outbreak*. Retrieved March 6, 2025, from <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/news-alerts/texas-announces-first-death-measles-outbreak>
5. Texas Health and Human Services. (2025, March 4). *Measles Outbreak - March 4, 2025*. Retrieved March 6, 2025, from <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/news-alerts/measles-outbreak-march-4-2025>

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