DISEASE ALERT

With Support by:







March 12, 2025 | Issue No. 18

First alert: March 6, 2025

Second alert: March 12, 2025 | Measles Outbreak in Texas, US

Sub-Locations Affected

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

New Mexico (Lea, Eddy)

Oklahoma (not publicly disclosed)



Distribution of Measles cases in Texas and the neighbouring states

Event Description

As of March 11, 2025, the Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS) has reported an outbreak of measles involving 223 cases, including 29 hospitalisations and one death. The outbreak has affected the neighbouring states of New Mexico and Oklahoma.

Epidemiological Information

- On January 23, 2025, the Houston Health Department confirmed Texas' first measles cases since 2023 in two unvaccinated Harris County residents from the same household who had recently traveled abroad.
- 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).
- As of March 11, 2025, the TDSHS has recorded 223 measles cases, up 64 from March 4, including 29 patients hospitalized. One measles-related death has been reported so far, involving an unvaccinated child.

- On March 11, 2025, the Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) confirmed two
 measles cases linked to outbreaks in Texas and New Mexico. Both individuals selfisolated throughout their contagious period. Further information regarding the cases is
 not publicly disclosed.
- As of March 11, 2025, NMDOH had reported 33 measles cases, up 24 from March 4, 2025, including the first in Eddy County outside Lea County.

Response Measures

- Texas DSHS urged healthcare providers to evaluate measles in patients with fever ≥38.3°C, a maculopapular rash lasting ≥3 days, and cough, runny nose, conjunctivitis, or Koplik spots, particularly in those with recent international travel or known exposure.
- The Texas DSHS is working with local health departments to investigate cases and urge unvaccinated individuals to receive the MMR vaccine to boost immunity and curb measles spread. The vaccine is especially recommended for infants, children, the unvaccinated, those with incomplete doses, and individuals without immunity.
- The New Mexico DOH has launched a dedicated web resource to address the rising measles cases within state boundaries.
- The OSDH is closely monitoring the situation and will notify the public if any risk arises.

Sources:

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- 3. Texas Health and Human Services. (2025, January 23). *Confirmed Case of Measles January 2025*. 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 5). *Measles Outbreak in Gaines County, Texas*. Retrieved March 6, 2025, from https://www.dshs.texas.gov/news-alerts/confirmed-case-measles-january-2025
- 5. 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
- 6. Texas Health and Human Services. (2025, March 4). *Measles Outbreak March 11, 2025*. Retrieved March 12, 2025, from https://www.dshs.texas.gov/news-alerts/measles-outbreak-2025

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