

## **MHES Statement Amid Rising Measles Cases in the US**

Grand Cayman, 11 JULY 2025

The Ministry of Health, Environment and Sustainability is aware of rising cases of measles reported across the United States (U.S.) and is encouraging residents to stay alert and take preventative action.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), there have been 1,288 confirmed cases of measles reported from 39 jurisdictions this year (data as of July 8, 2025), marking the highest national total since the disease was declared eliminated in the U.S. in 2000.

Dr. Nick Gent, Chief Medical Officer for the Ministry of Health, Environment and Sustainability, said: “The Ministry is closely monitoring developments in the U.S. and will continue to stay vigilant regarding new measles cases. We are also reminding residents that vaccination is the best and safest way to prevent infection and limit the potential for outbreaks. The measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine is available free of charge from Public Health and provides about 97% protection after two doses.”

Measles is highly contagious and easily spread through coughing and sneezing. Symptoms of measles include:

- Fever and sore throat
- Cough, cold-like symptoms, or conjunctivitis
- A red blotchy rash that typically appears after the onset of fever

Dr. Gent added: “Given the Cayman Islands’ close travel ties with the U.S. there is a possibility of imported cases. However, the risk to the local population remains low, particularly for those who are fully vaccinated.”

While measles cases have risen in the U.S., the Cayman Islands has robust public health systems in place and a comprehensive response plan which includes rapid diagnostic testing, to manage and identify potential cases locally.

Ms. Tamara Ebanks, Chief Officer for Health, Environment and Sustainability, said: “We encourage residents to check that they and their children are fully vaccinated and if not go and get vaccinated. Also more generally to help prevent the spread of infectious diseases, take precautionary measures, for example by practicing good hand hygiene. Steps like these can make a big difference in keeping our community healthy.”

For more information, or to access the vaccination schedule, log on to [www.hsa.ky/public-health](http://www.hsa.ky/public-health) or contact the Public Health Department on 244-2621 or 244-2889.

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