

St. Lawrence County Board of Health
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SLCPHD and Board of Health Advises Residents to Stay Protected from Measles as New Cases Increase Nationally & Globally

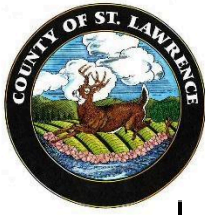
The St. Lawrence County Department of Health and Board of Health advises residents that measles cases are rising nationally and globally. The virus was eradicated in the U.S. 25 years ago, but has resurfaced recently as immunization rates have declined. According to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](https://www.cdc.gov/disease/index.html) (CDC), As of April 17, 2025, a total of 800 confirmed measles cases were reported by 25 jurisdictions: Alaska, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York City, New York State, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, and Washington. There have been 2 confirmed deaths from measles, and 1 death under investigation. Of the cases reported to date, 96% occurred in individuals who were unvaccinated or did not have a confirmed vaccination status; those confirmed dead were also unvaccinated.

Currently, Ontario is part of a multi-jurisdictional measles outbreak with measles activity occurring in Ontario and several other provinces. In 2025, a total of 924 measles cases (798 confirmed, 126 probable) have been reported in Ontario as of April 16, 2025. 69 outbreak cases have required hospitalization; among all hospitalizations, 65 were unimmunized, including 53 children.

The virus spreads through the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes, and it can even be transmitted just by being in a room where someone with measles has been, up to two hours after they have left. Common symptoms include fever, rash, cough, conjunctivitis (red, watery eyes), and runny nose.

Dr. Andrew Williams, President of the St. Lawrence County Board of Health, reminds residents that measles is a serious, potentially deadly disease that is easily prevented by a safe, effective vaccine. Adults who are not currently vaccinated, or parents/guardians of unvaccinated children, should contact their medical provider, local pharmacy, or the Department of Health immediately and arrange for vaccination. Protect yourself, your family, and the community.

Measles can pose health risks for individuals of all ages; however, certain groups are more susceptible to complications, including children under the age of five, pregnant women, and those with weakened immune systems. Complications associated with measles can include pneumonia, encephalitis, miscarriage, preterm birth, hospitalization, and even death.



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The most effective way to prevent measles is by receiving the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine. The MMR vaccine is both safe and effective. Two doses are typically 97% effective against measles and rubella, and 88% effective against mumps. A single dose is also highly effective, with 93% effectiveness against measles, 78% against mumps, and 97% against rubella.

To prevent measles, consult your healthcare provider about the MMR vaccine, particularly if you plan to travel. St. Lawrence County residents seeking the MMR vaccine have several local pharmacy options. Pharmacies offering MMR vaccinations in St. Lawrence County include Kinney Drugs and Walmart Pharmacy. Residents are advised to contact their preferred pharmacy in advance to confirm vaccine availability and to schedule an appointment. The MMR vaccinations are also available through the St. Lawrence County Public Health Department. Appointments can be scheduled by calling (315) 386-2325.

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