



Clinton County Health Department

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"Working Together for a Healthier Community"

health.clintoncountyny.gov



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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News Release

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For Immediate Release
Contact: 518-565-4840

Measles: What Clinton County Residents Need to Know and Do

Clinton County, October 13, 2026. More than 100 confirmed measles cases have been reported across 22 New York counties in 2026. The Clinton County Health Department (CCHD) is asking residents to be proactive by checking their vaccination history. There are currently zero cases in Clinton County.

Measles is a respiratory disease that is easily spread when a person infected with the measles virus breathes, coughs, or sneezes. The measles virus can live for up to two hours in airspace where an infected person has coughed or sneezed and can be passed from an infected person even before they show a measles rash.

"Measles is a highly contagious illness," according to Nichole Louis, BSN, RN, Director of Health Care Services at CCHD. "Ninety percent of unvaccinated people exposed to the virus will become infected. On the other hand, the recommended two doses of MMR vaccine are about ninety-seven percent effective at preventing the illness."

Measles affects the lungs and airways. It causes a rash and fever, and may lead to serious symptoms. Many people with measles have complications such as diarrhea, ear infections or pneumonia. Ear infections occur in about one out of every 10 children with measles and can result in permanent hearing loss. Measles can lead to a brain infection which can cause permanent brain damage. A small number of people who get measles will need hospitalization and if complications including pneumonia or encephalitis (brain swelling) occur, death can result. Measles during pregnancy increases the risk of early labor, miscarriage and low birth weight infants. Measles can be more severe in people with weak immune systems.

Getting vaccinated is the best way to prevent measles. You are considered vaccinated against measles if you have 2 valid doses of MMR vaccine, or other vaccines that protect against measles. You are also considered immune to measles if you have a lab report of immunity, or you were born before 1957. Anyone who has not been vaccinated against measles should receive at least one dose of MMR vaccine. However, two doses of MMR vaccine are recommended for all children and adults. When more children and adults are vaccinated, it is harder for measles to spread in families and communities.

If you can't find a record of having received the vaccine; documentation of having had measles; or other proof of immunity; schedule an appointment with your health care provider to determine your need for vaccination. If you don't have a health care provider or if your current provider does not have your vaccination history, you can contact CCHD at 518-565-4848 between 8am and 4pm, Monday through Friday.

"The risk to the general public is low, as Clinton County has a high vaccination rate," added Ms. Louis. "We will continue to monitor cases in our neighboring counties and communities and will provide additional guidance to residents if needed."



"Persons who have any physical mobility or other needs, call the telephone number above to arrange for accommodations"

To learn more about measles, vaccination, or the rising measles case rates in New York State, visit <https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/measles/>.

About the Clinton County Health Department:

The Health Department is an accredited full service department serving the residents of Clinton County. The Health Department's Mission is to improve and protect the health, well-being and environment of the people of Clinton County. Visit our website at health.clintoncountyny.gov or connect with us on Facebook (@clintonhealth), X (Twitter [@ClintonCountyHD]), and Instagram (clintoncountyhealth).

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