



## County Executive's Corner "Surge in Measles Cases Reported Nationwide and in New York State"

BY: County Executive Ed Day



As many of you already know, we are once again facing a new health concern in the United States, as measles cases spike both nationwide, including here on the East Coast.

As of early October 2026, the Centers for Disease Control indicated the United States had 3,887 confirmed measles cases. This includes 108 cases in New York State, which declared a State of Emergency, and over 1,000 cases in neighboring Pennsylvania that resulted in five deaths - marking the largest single-state outbreak in decades. These outbreaks are happening for one reason – these communities are under-immunized.

As of right now, Rockland County has only had four cases at the very start of 2026 and none currently thanks to our Rockland County Department of Health working hard to make sure families are vaccinated.

Measles is one of the most contagious viruses on earth with 90% of unvaccinated people exposed to the virus becoming infected. You can catch measles by being in the same room with a person with measles for up to 2 hours after an infected person leaves a room -- even before the infected person develops a rash.

Symptoms include a fever, rash, cough, conjunctivitis (red, watery eyes), or runny nose and usually appear 10-12 days after exposure but may appear as early as 7 days and as late as 21 days after exposure.

Here's what families need to know about the measles-mumps-rubella, or MMR, vaccinations:

- **Children should receive the first MMR dose at 12–15 months and a second dose at 4–6 years (or at least 28 days after the first).**
- **Adults who have received only one dose, or who are unsure of their vaccination status, should get a second dose or consult their physician about immunity testing.**
- **Anyone traveling internationally should have two documented MMR doses.**
- **Infants 6–11 months old traveling anywhere with measles either locally or internationally should receive one early MMR dose before travel.**

To successfully prevent measles from resurfacing in this county I urge our residents to get vaccinated immediately not just for measles, but for any vaccine preventable disease.

**Our RCDOH will offer no cost MMR vaccinations at the following community locations:**

- **West Haverstraw Community Center: Friday, October 16, 1-3 PM**
- **Allison-Parris County Office Building, New City: Wednesday, October 21, 11 AM-2 PM**
- **Rockland Plaza, Nanuet: Wednesday, October 28, 11 AM-2 PM**

The MMR vaccine is also available by appointment at RCDOH Immunization Clinics in Pomona and in Spring Valley. For appointments or more information, visit the RCDOH Immunization Clinic Webpage or call (845) 364-2520 or (845) 364-2524.

