



Health Services

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Health Services

*Providing Mental Health, Public Conservator, Public Health, and
Substance Use Disorders Treatment Services*

Press Release

Not for op-ed

TO: MENDOCINO COUNTY NEWS MEDIA
FROM: MENDOCINO COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH
CHARLES EVANS, MD, DEPUTY PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER

Mendocino County, CA, March 12, 2026

Mendocino County Public Health is alerting residents and healthcare providers about increased measles activity in California. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) recently confirmed six new cases in Sacramento and Placer counties, marking the third measles outbreak in the state this year.

Although no cases have been identified in Mendocino County at this time, measles is highly contagious and spreads through the air. The virus can remain in the air and on surfaces for up to two hours after an infected person leaves the area.

“Measles is a highly infectious respiratory disease that can lead to serious health complications,” said Dr. Charles Evans, Mendocino County Public Health Officer. “With outbreaks occurring in neighboring regions, we urge residents to verify their vaccination status and ensure they are protected.”

Local Vaccination Statistics and Risk

- **County Risk Level:** Mendocino County is currently categorized as medium risk and is among 16 California counties below the 95% “herd immunity” threshold for kindergarten MMR vaccination.
- **Statewide Trend:** In 2026, approximately 96% of measles cases in California occurred in individuals who were unvaccinated or whose vaccination status was unknown.

Actions for Residents

1. **Check Records:** Verify your child’s vaccination status through the Digital Vaccine Record portal at <https://myvaccinerecord.cdph.ca.gov>.
2. **Call Before Visiting:** If you or your child develop symptoms such as high fever, cough, runny nose, or red eyes followed by a rash, call your healthcare provider before visiting a clinic or emergency room. This allows staff to take precautions to prevent exposure to others.
3. **Schedule a Vaccine:** Two doses of the MMR vaccine are about 97% effective at preventing measles. Families can find vaccination appointments at MyTurn.ca.gov or call (707) 472-2713 to check eligibility for the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program.

For more information about measles, visit the CDPH measles webpage at: www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/measles.aspx or contact your healthcare provider.

Mendocino County Public Health continues to work closely with CDPH and local healthcare providers to monitor the situation and will provide updates if any local cases are identified.

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