

Panhandle

Public Health District

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For Immediate Release:

No further measles cases reported, Early MMR recommendations continue for Sheridan and Dawes Counties through July 4

Panhandle Public Health District has had no further measles cases confirmed from the Sheridan County case announced in late May.

"We are grateful that no further measles cases have been reported and the initial case recovered quickly with mild symptoms. With cases increasing in South Dakota, we want to remind people the importance of getting their measles, mumps, rubella (MMR) vaccinations as the best defense against this highly infectious virus," said Jessica Davies, MPH, Health Director with PPHD.

Davies added, "The health of each of us depends on the health of all of us. We vaccinate to protect our family, friends, neighbors, those too young to yet be vaccinated, and those with certain medical conditions that make them unable to be vaccinated."

"Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services' recommendation for early and accelerated MMR in Sheridan and Dawes Counties will end on July 4, 2025, if no additional measles cases are identified in these areas. At that time, two full incubation periods for measles will have passed and we can say with confidence no community spread has occurred following our only measles detection for 2025," said Dr. Sydney Stein, State Epidemiologist with DHHS.

Stein shared, "Measles is still circulating both in the United States and abroad and we continue to encourage Nebraskans to make sure they and their families are protected against measles by receiving two doses of the MMR vaccine when appropriate according to routine recommendations."

Two doses of MMR vaccine are about 97% effective at preventing measles; one dose is about 93% effective. The following updated MMR vaccine recommendations continue for Sheridan and Dawes County residents:

- Residents aged 6-11 months should receive an early dose of MMR vaccine. This should be followed by two additional doses of MMR beginning at 12 months of age.
- Residents aged 12 months or older with only one dose of MMR vaccine should receive their second dose as soon as possible, at least 28 days following the first dose.
- Residents born prior to 1957 are presumed to have natural immunity to measles but should talk to their provider if they have concerns about their immune status.



To check you and your family's vaccination status against the measles, you can look up records at the following:

- **Nebraska Immunization Records Lookup** - https://nesiis-dhhs-prod.ne.gov/prd_ir/public/clientSearch.do?language=en
- **South Dakota Immunization Records Lookup** – <https://doh.sd.gov/topics/immunizations-vaccinations>
- **Nebraska Public Immunization Clinics** - <https://arcg.is/aXqie>

If you are experiencing measles symptoms, including fever along with a runny nose, cough, red and watery eyes, or a rash, please call your local hospital or clinic before going to determine if measles testing is needed.

State and local health officials are working closely together to respond to this highly contagious virus. Measles symptoms include fever, runny nose, cough, and rash. Although measles is usually considered a childhood disease, it can be contracted at any age. Generally, preschool children, adolescents, young adults, and inadequately immunized individuals comprise the majority of measles cases in the United States. There is no specific treatment for measles.

The Panhandle's measles response is a continuously evolving effort. For more information, visit <https://pphd.org/measlesinfo.html>, <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/mmr/public/index.html>, or <https://www.cdc.gov/measles/index.html>.

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