

Potential Impact

MMR immunization rates in Washington are below the 95% threshold that provides community immunity. If the spread of the virus is not controlled quickly and effectively, a larger outbreak could have significant impact on the region's healthcare services, schools, workplaces and the public.

In Spokane County, 84-86% of children 12 months through 18 years have the recommended doses of MMR vaccine. The main concern is children are not getting the recommended doses on time when they are meant to protect them the most. Although adult data in the WA Immunization Information System (WA IIS) is incomplete, it shows that 40% of adults 19 years through 68 years have the recommended doses of MMR vaccine. Some adults have challenges finding proof of vaccination, making it difficult to determine the level of risk for the adult population.

Groups and geographic areas with lower immunization rates are at risk of higher transmission rates and greater impacts from a measles outbreak.

The quarantine period for exposed individuals who are not vaccinated or whose immune status is unknown is 21 days from the last exposure. Quarantine may be extended to 28 days for immunocompromised individuals or those who receive post exposure treatment. Quarantine may present significant impacts on individuals, households, schools, and the work force.

Anticipated Health and Medical Issues

1. Vaccination options for adults without health insurance are limited.
2. The cost of titer test for current immunity to measles may not be covered by insurance.
3. Healthcare facilities and systems are challenged to safely evaluate and care for individuals who may be infected with measles without exposing other patients.
4. Quarantine for exposed individuals who are not immune to measles and isolation for individuals who have confirmed measles infection is a challenge for individuals, households, healthcare facilities, congregate care settings and group living locations.

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The highly contagious nature of measles presents the risk of extensive spread to and across Multiple jurisdictions in the region. Resources and supplies to treat exposed individuals may be stretched thin or become difficult to obtain.

An extensive outbreak would overextend or potentially overwhelm public health and health care resources.

Community Mitigation Measures

Case and Contact Investigation

An alert was sent to all known exposed individuals, informing them of their exposure to measles and providing them with a FAQs document with links to more information and options for support.

Individuals at higher risk for acquiring measles or complications from measles have been identified and resources for case investigation and contact tracing are focusing on those individuals.

Healthcare Provider Outreach

- [Health Alert](#) sent to healthcare providers 8/13/25.
- Established regular meeting cadence with hospitals and other healthcare facilities.
- Sharing information with executive leadership of local healthcare organizations as new information is learned.
- Assisting healthcare facilities with infection prevention plans and preparation.
- Conducting outreach to support adequate supply of MMR vaccine and immunoglobulin in the healthcare System.
- Assisting providers to enroll in state managed vaccine programs to ensure expedited ordering of MMR vaccine.
- Communicated with Adult and Child Vaccine Program providers on how to assess coverage rates for MMR and prevent measles cases in their clinics.
- Supporting healthcare facilities offering titer clinic for exposed individuals.
- Hosting a Q&A session for healthcare providers about Measles with the Washington State Medical Epidemiologist on 9/18/25.

Special Populations

- Providing information for vaccination clinics for the uninsured and under-insured.
- Provided community back-to-school immunization clinic at Shaw Middle School on 8/27/25

Schools, School Districts and Childcare Providers

- Sent guidance materials to area superintendents, school nurses and childcare centers detailing how to prepare for potential measles cases and exposures
- Connected Range Community Clinic's Mobile Medical Unit with a school district in Central Washington for vaccination support.

Surrounding Health Departments

- Providing resources and support to other local health jurisdictions in Eastern Washington
- Collaborating with Panhandle Health District

Communication Strategies & Activities

- Updated [Measles \(Rubeola\) | Spokane Regional Health District](#) webpage
- Created a [Current Local Outbreak | Spokane Regional Health District](#) for measles
- Added measles to SRHD website's Alert banner and moved measles to primary location on [Spokane Regional Health District](#) home page
- Created a [For Health Care Providers | Spokane Regional Health District](#) webpage with information on preparing for and responding to measles exposures in healthcare settings
- Posted on social media urging people to call first before visiting a healthcare provider if they have measles symptoms or potential exposure
- Added vaccine clinic information to current local outbreak page on SRHD.org and promotion of Shaw Clinic on social media
- Created a [Measles Outbreak section](#) in the District Hub's Outbreak and Incident Response section for SRHD employees. It includes response updates and resources
- Included a [Measles Outbreak article](#) with response updates in the employee Hubbub newsletter on 8/25; follow-up article was published on [Sept. 2](#)

Early and Ongoing Communication Through Various Media

- Press releases sent and posted on srhd.org and on social media on [8/19/25](#) and [8/25/25](#)
- Staff media interviews & news coverage:
- Spokesman Review [8/20/25](#); [8/26/25](#), [9/2/25](#)
- KHQ [8/20/25](#), [8/25/25](#), [8/26/25](#), [8/28/25](#), [9/2/25](#)
- KREM [8/19/25](#); [8/25/25](#), [8/27/25](#)
- KXLY [8/19/25](#); [8/20/25](#), [8/21/25](#); [8/25/25](#), [8/25/25](#), [8/26/25](#)
- The Gonzaga Bulletin [9/4/25](#)
- The Inlander [9/11/25](#)

Where to Find More Information

- SRHD (current outbreak) <https://srhd.org/health-topics/diseases-conditions/measles/current-local-outbreak>
- SRHD <https://srhd.org/health-topics/diseases-conditions/measles>
- WA DOH <https://doh.wa.gov/you-and-your-family/illness-and-disease-z/measles>
- CDC <https://www.cdc.gov/measles/index.html>

Health Advisories

<https://srhd.org/measles-advisory-for-health-care-providers-aug-12-2025>

<https://srhd.org/for-health-care-providers/advisories-and-alerts-for-healthcare-providers>