

## Flathead City-County Health Department

1035 1st Ave. West Kalispell, MT 59901 (406)-751-8101 FAX 751-8102 www.flatheadhealth.org Community Health Services 406-751-8110 FAX 866-380-1740 Environmental Health Services 406-751-8130 FAX 406-751-8131 Flathead Family Planning 406-751-8150 FAX 855-931-9091 Population Health Services 406-751-8101 FAX 406-758-2497 WIC Services 406-751-8170 FAX 406-751-8171 Animal Shelter 406-752-1310 FAX 406-752-1546

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

May 29, 2025

## **Second Measles Case Confirmed in Flathead County**

The Flathead City-County Health Department (FCCHD) has confirmed a second case of measles in a Flathead County resident who has reported recent travel outside of Montana. There is no clear indication of the exact point of exposure and there is no connection with the previous case reported in Flathead County. This individual is an adult and is currently isolating at home following recent hospitalization for the illness. The vaccination status of the individual is unknown at this time.

FCCHD disease investigation staff have determined two locations of public exposure. FCCHD recommends that anyone who visited the following locations <u>only</u> during the specified dates and times may have been exposed to measles.

- **Location:** The Logan Health building, also known as "The Rock," located at 350 Heritage Way, Kalispell, MT 59901, which includes the following Logan Health Clinics:
  - Heart and Lung
  - Hematology & Oncology
  - Orthopedics & Sports Medicine- Heritage
  - Urology
- Date & Time: Friday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> between 2:40pm 5:30pm
- Location: Logan Health Emergency Department, 350 Conway Drive Kalispell, MT 59901
  - o Date & Time: Monday, May 26<sup>th</sup> between 6:40pm 9:10pm

Those who may have been exposed can utilize the health department's Measles Exposure Self-Assessment tool to help determine their next steps: <u>Measles Exposure Self Assessment</u>.

"Any additional confirmed measles cases and associated exposure locations in Flathead County will be posted on the health department's website moving forward." said Health Officer Jen Rankosky. The health department is working closely with the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) through the investigation process. Any updated information will be made available on the health department's website, <a href="Measles::Flathead">Measles::Flathead</a> County.





Measles is a highly infectious disease that is spread primarily through the air when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks, releasing tiny droplets that carry the virus. These droplets can linger in the air for up to 2 hours, making it possible for a person to contract the disease even if they had no direct contact with the infectious person. Measles can also be spread through touching contaminated surfaces and then touching your mouth, eyes, or nose. Measles typically begins with a fever, cough, runny nose, red eyes, and white spots inside the cheeks, and a red rash that appears about 14 days after exposure. The rash usually starts on the face and spreads downward to the rest of the body.

If you are experiencing measles symptoms, call your healthcare provider right away. Your provider will tell you how to get care safely without exposing others. Please stay at home and do not have any guests or visitors until you are no longer contagious, or measles is ruled out

Individuals who are immune to measles through vaccination, laboratory evidence of immunity, laboratory confirmation of disease, or were born before 1957, are not considered at risk for infection. Individuals with no prior measles infection or vaccination have a 90% likelihood of contracting the disease if exposed.

The best protection against measles is the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine. MMR vaccine provides long-lasting protection against measles. Two doses of the MMR vaccine are about 97% effective. There have been no changes made to the existing MMR vaccine recommendations in the US, and two doses have been recommended for children since 1989. If you are in need of the MMR vaccine, please contact your healthcare provider. FCCHD also has MMR vaccine available, individuals can schedule an appointment online or call 406-751-8110.