

PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO YOUR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

URGENT HEALTH BULLETIN

Measles Exposure in Kern County

This document contains hyperlinks and can be accessed on our [Health Bulletin webpage](https://www.kernpublichealth.com/i-want-to/review/health-bulletins)
(<https://www.kernpublichealth.com/i-want-to/review/health-bulletins>)

September 19, 2026

Dear Kern County Healthcare Provider:

This urgent health bulletin is being sent to call your attention to a potential exposure to measles after a confirmed case travelled through Kern County.

Summary

On September 18, 2026, Kern County Public Health was notified that a person diagnosed with measles [traveled through Kern County](#) while infectious on Saturday, September 12, 2026. Persons who traveled via Amtrak bus 5717 from Los Angeles to Bakersfield which departed at 10:55 am or the Amtrak train 717 from Bakersfield to Stockton which departed at 2:02 pm on September 12, 2026, may have been exposed to measles. Additionally, since measles exposure can occur up to one (1) hour after an infectious person has left the shared airspace, anyone who was at the Amtrak Station at 601 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, CA, 93301 between 1:45 pm and 3:02 pm may have been exposed to measles.

Healthcare providers should remain vigilant for signs and symptoms of measles and ask about potential exposures to measles. Persons who may have been exposed on Saturday, September 12, 2026, should monitor themselves for symptoms through Saturday, October 3, 2026. Due to the amount of time that has elapsed since the exposure event, post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) is not recommended at this time.

Background

As of September 17, 2026, there have been 3,471 confirmed cases of measles reported in the United States. As of September 14, 2026, there have been 59 cases of measles confirmed in California, including four hospitalizations. Measles continues to circulate domestically as well as abroad. Vaccination against measles remains the most effective and timely method for preventing measles infections and associated complications.

Recommendations for Healthcare Providers and Healthcare Facilities

Healthcare providers are recommended to do the following:

- **Consider measles.** Maintain a high index of suspicion in patients with clinically compatible symptoms, especially with a suspected or known exposure. Symptoms may include fever; cough, coryza, and/or conjunctivitis; and maculopapular rash descending from the face.

Grounded in Health

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- **Mask and isolate.** Immediately mask and isolate suspect measles patients, preferably in an airborne infection isolation room or designated rash room.
- **Report immediately.** Contact Kern County Public Health at 661-321-3000 during regular business hours or 661-241-3255 after hours on weekends or holidays. Early notification enables rapid testing, isolation guidance, contact tracing, and post-exposure prophylaxis.
- **Order testing.** Collect specimens for PCR testing. Recommend specimens include throat or nasopharyngeal swab in viral transport media (VTM) or universal transport media (UTM) and at least 10-50 mL of urine in a sterile container.
- **Manage care.** Provide supportive care and advise patient to remain at home unless needing to seek additional healthcare services until they receive negative test results or at least four days have passed since rash onset.

Additionally, all healthcare providers should review recent Health Alerts regarding measles, including those issued on [March 9, 2026](#), [July 24, 2026](#), and [August 6, 2026](#).

Additional Resources

- [KCDPH: Confirmed Measles in Kern County Residents \(8/6/2026\)](#)
- [KCDPH: Ongoing Increase in California Measles Cases \(7/24/2026\)](#)
- [KCDPH: Ongoing Increase in California Measles Cases \(3/9/2026\)](#)
- [CDPH: Measles Exposure Across Multiple Counties Involving Train and Bus Passenger \(9/18/2026\)](#)
- [CDPH: New Measles Cases Reported in Sacramento Region \(3/6/2026\)](#)
- [CDPH: CDPH Urges Vaccination Amid Growing Number of Measles Cases in California \(2/9/2026\)](#)
- [CDPH: Increase of Measles in California \(2/4/2026\)](#)
- [CDC: Expanding Measles Outbreak in the United States and Guidance for the Upcoming Travel Season \(3/7/2025\)](#)
- [CDPH: Measles](#)
- [CDC: Clinical Overview of Measles](#)
- [CDC: Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Measles in Healthcare Settings](#)
- [CDC: Measles Cases and Outbreaks](#)

If you have any questions, please contact Kern County public Health by phone at 661-321-3000, via email at publichealth@kerncounty.com, or visit the [KCPH website](#).

Thank you,

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Health Officer