



Hoke County Health Department

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Issue

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that there have been several cases of measles in multiple states including Georgia, Virginia, and Florida. As of February 22, 2024, 15 states have confirmed cases. There have been no confirmed cases in North Carolina at this time.

Background

Measles is highly contagious and spreads by droplets from person to person through the air and on surfaces. The virus can live in the air up to two hours after an infected person has left the room. First symptoms are usually a fever, followed by cough, runny nose, conjunctivitis (pink eye), and a rash. While symptoms usually appear 7-14 days after exposure, those who are infected can be contagious about 4 days before their rash appears and up to 4 days afterward. People at highest risk for severe illness include infants and children under 5 years old, pregnant women, and those with compromised immune systems.

High levels of immunity in the general population ultimately limits the spread of the virus. The MMR vaccine is the best defense against infection and protecting those around you, and is highly safe and effective.

Vaccines are available at the Hoke County Health Department. For more information, call (910) 875-3717.