



AAP experts emphasize vaccination as U.S. measles cases hit highest number since 1992

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There have been 1,277 measles cases reported this year in the U.S., surpassing 2019's 33-year high of 1,274, according to the Johns Hopkins University's Center for Outbreak Response Innovation.

"Just after the halfway point of 2025, more cases of measles have been reported in the U.S. than in any year since 1992, eight years before we eliminated measles from the country," said James D. Campbell, M.D., M.S., FAAP, vice chair of the AAP Committee on Infectious Diseases. "MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) vaccine prevents measles, and all eligible children should be fully vaccinated."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) confirmed [2,126 cases in 1992](#), down from 27,808 in 1990. Measles was declared to be eliminated from the U.S. in 2000, when just 85 cases were reported. The [CDC defines measles elimination](#) as "the absence of continuous disease transmission for 12 months or more in a specific geographic area."

The 1,277 cases, which experts say likely represent a significant undercount, were [reported Friday](#) by Johns Hopkins University's Center for Outbreak Response Innovation and confirmed Monday via email by Caitlin Rivers, Ph.D., M.P.H., director of the center. The CDC confirmed 1,267 cases last week and is expected to update its count on Wednesday.

The AAP and other health organizations filed [suit](#) Monday against Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. for making unilateral, unscientific changes to federal vaccine policy that jeopardize the

success of the country's immunization system, a "cornerstone of U.S. public health."

"There have been more measles cases in the U.S. this year than any other since the disease was declared eliminated a quarter-century ago. This affects everyone in our communities, including babies under 6 months who are too young to be immunized against measles," AAP President Susan J. Kressly, M.D., FAAP, said during a press conference introducing the lawsuit.

An outbreak in west Texas accounts for most of 2025's cases, 753 as of July 1. The [Texas Department of State Health Services](#) also confirmed 37 cases in other regions of the state. Two unvaccinated schoolchildren in Texas are among three measles-related deaths reported in the U.S. this year.

According to the [CDC's July 2 measles update](#), 92% of cases have been among people who are unvaccinated or whose vaccination status is unknown. Measles [vaccination coverage for U.S. kindergartners](#) decreased from 95.2% in the 2019-'20 school year to 92.7% in 2023-'24.

"To keep us measles-free in the U.S., a continued high rate of vaccination is needed," said Robert W. French Jr., M.D., FAAP, chair of the AAP Section on Infectious Diseases. "Measles vaccines are safe and well-tested."

The AAP recommends ensuring patients are covered with a two-dose MMR vaccination series. Under [routine recommendations](#), the doses are given at ages 12-15 months and 4-6 years. One dose of MMR is 93% effective against measles, and two doses are 97% effective.

"The measles vaccine began being used in the early 1960s, and its success was remarkable," Dr. French said. "Instead of hundreds of thousands of cases per year in the U.S., within 10 years of vaccine introduction, cases had dropped by over 90%."

Measles cases have been reported this year to the CDC by 38 jurisdictions: Alaska, Arkansas, Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York City, New York State, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia and Washington. The Wyoming Department of Health just [last week reported](#) the state's first case of measles since 2010.