



## GASTON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

991 West Hudson Boulevard • Gastonia, North Carolina 28052  
704-853-5000 • [www.gastonhhs.org](http://www.gastonhhs.org)

March 21, 2025

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As of March 14, 2025, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) has confirmed 301 cases of measles across 15 jurisdictions, including Georgia, Kentucky, Florida, and Maryland, with two reported deaths. Although North Carolina has not seen any measles cases in 2025, we want to take this opportunity to share important information about measles and ways to prevent it.

Measles is a highly contagious viral respiratory infection that is spread in the air through coughing and sneezing. Symptoms include fever, cough, runny nose, a rash, sore throat, and red eyes. An infected person can spread measles to others even before developing symptoms- from four days before they develop the measles rash through four days afterward.

The best way to protect against measles is to get the measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine. The CDC recommends routine childhood immunization with the MMR vaccine, starting with the first dose at 12-15 months of age, and the second dose before entering school, at 4-6 years of age. Please be aware that during a measles outbreak, unvaccinated or partially vaccinated students or those with waivers may be excluded from school/childcare for an extended period. Based on age requirements, children aged 12 months to less than 4 years are considered up to date with just one vaccine. Children 4 years and older are considered up to date after receiving two vaccines.

It is important to check your child's immunization record to make sure he/she is up to date on recommended vaccines. Your child's immunization record may also be available through your local health department or primary care provider.

For questions or to schedule an immunization appointment, please contact your Primary Care Provider or call Gaston County Public Health at 704-853-5000.

Gaston County Public Health  
Communicable Disease



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