



MADISON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

To protect, promote and improve the health of our community.

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Madison County Health Department Identifies Potential Measles Exposure Richmond, KY – August 29, 2026

Health officials have identified potential **measles case exposure** in Madison County. An unvaccinated, out-of-state traveler visited several establishments in Richmond, KY on August 24, August 27, and August 28, 2026. For more information about exposures please visit: www.chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/dehp/idb/Pages/measles.aspx.

Measles is a **highly contagious** respiratory virus that spreads through the air. The virus can remain in the air for up to two hours after an infected person leaves an area. Symptoms typically develop 7–21 days after exposure and may include: high fever (sometimes over 104°F), cough, runny nose, Red or watery eyes, rash (usually beginning 3–5 days after other symptoms start).

Children younger than 5 years of age are the most vulnerable, but anyone who is not vaccinated is at risk. The **MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) vaccine is the best protection against measles**. People who have received two doses of MMR are considered well protected.

People who are **unvaccinated** and may have been exposed should contact a healthcare provider or Madison County Health Department for guidance. Unvaccinated individuals, including those who have a medical or other exemption to vaccination, must quarantine for **21 days after their most recent exposure**. Unvaccinated individuals receiving an MMR vaccine within **72 hours of exposure** may provide protection and can return to childcare, school, or work. If you have questions or concerns regarding your household's vaccination status, please speak with a trusted healthcare provider, as they will have the most up to date information and be able to address any questions or concerns you may have.

Persons positive for measles should stay away from others for four days after developing the rash AND until fever-free for 24 hours without fever reducing medications, or at the direction of a physician.

It is very important not to ignore the symptoms of measles. If anyone in your household develops an illness with a fever (101°F or more), cough, runny nose or red eyes, with or without a rash, please consult your primary care provider to be evaluated immediately. For more information, you can contact the Madison County Health Department at (859)-623-7312, or visit www.cdc.gov/measles.

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www.madisoncountyhealthdept.org