

HEALTH ALERT NETWORK | HEALTH ADVISORY | May 6, 2025

Updated MMR Vaccination Recommendations for Individuals Living or Traveling to Williams County

Today, May 6, 2025, North Dakota Health and Human Services (HHS) is reporting five additional measles cases in Williams County, bringing the state's total to nine cases in 2025. All newly confirmed individuals were unvaccinated and had no reported contact with previously identified cases. These individuals are currently isolating at home as recommended to help limit further spread.

Because some of the new cases are not linked to earlier known exposures, there is concern about potential community transmission. As a precaution, HHS recommends that all residents and travelers to Williams County ensure they are vaccinated against measles. This includes consideration of early MMR vaccination for infants aged 6 through 11 months. (Note: Infants under 6 months are not eligible for the vaccine.)

The following measles vaccine recommendations should be utilized for residents and travelers to Williams County.

Infants Less than 6 months old:

Infants less than 6 months old are not recommended to receive a dose of MMR.

Infants 6 – 11 months:

Infants aged 6 – 11 months old are recommended to receive a dose of MMR vaccine early prior to any international travel or travel to an outbreak area, which now includes Williams County, North Dakota. Due to potential risk of ongoing measles transmission in Williams County ND, HHS is recommending all infants 6 - 11 months old residing in or traveling to Williams County receive a dose of MMR vaccine. Measles, Mumps, Rubella, and Varicella (MMRV) vaccine should not be utilized in infants under 12 months of age.

Children who receive a dose of MMR prior to 12 months should still receive two age-appropriate doses of MMR vaccine at least 28 days apart after their first birthday.

Children 12 months – 17 years:

Any child 12 months – 17 years old who have not previously received any dose of MMR vaccine should be vaccinated immediately regardless of residence. For children residing in or visiting Williams County, a second dose of MMR vaccine should be administered at least 28 days after receipt of the first dose of MMR vaccine.

Children residing in or visiting Williams County who received their first age-appropriate dose of MMR vaccine should not wait to receive their second dose of MMR vaccine until 4-6 years old. The minimum interval of 28 days should be utilized due to the risk of ongoing measles transmission in Williams County.

No additional or booster doses of MMR are recommended for children aged 1 – 17 years who have received two doses of MMR after 12 months old.

Adults 18 years and older:

All **adults born before 1957** were likely exposed to measles as a child and considered immune to measles. Unless these individuals work in health care, there are no recommendations for these individuals to receive MMR vaccine.

Adults born between 1957 and 1968 who have no documented doses of MMR vaccine or who received doses of inactivated MMR vaccine and who reside in or are visiting Williams County should receive the first dose of MMR vaccine immediately followed by a second dose at least 28 days later. Adults born in this age group who have one dose of live-attenuated MMR vaccine and who reside in or are visiting Williams County should receive a second dose of MMR vaccine. There are no booster or additional doses recommended after an individual has received two doses of MMR vaccine.

Adults born after 1968 who reside in or are visiting Williams County and are unvaccinated should receive a dose of MMR vaccine immediately followed by a second dose at least 28 days later. Any adult born after 1968 residing in or visiting Williams County who has one documented dose of MMR vaccine should receive a second dose of MMR vaccine. There are no booster or additional doses recommended after an individual has received two doses of MMR vaccine. Adults born after 1968 who DO NOT reside in or travel to Williams County only need one dose of MMR vaccine to be considered up-to-date.

Unknown Vaccination Status:

Anyone who does not know their vaccination status or is unable to find their record may receive a dose of MMR.

Access to Immunization Records:

Immunization records for North Dakota residents can be accessed at hhs.nd.gov/IRR or by contacting a healthcare provider.

Measles antibody testing:

CDC does not recommend measles antibody testing after MMR vaccination to verify the patient's immune response to vaccination. Appropriately documented doses of MMR vaccine should be considered as proof for evidence of immunity.

ND HHS provides measles vaccine for children eligible for the Vaccines For Children (VFC) Program – Medicaid-eligible, uninsured, underinsured, and American Indian/Alaska Native. ND HHS also provides measles vaccine for uninsured and underinsured adults.

For more information about measles in North Dakota, please visit the North Dakota Immunization Unit website at <https://www.hhs.nd.gov/immunizations/measles>.