

October 29, 2026

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency Alerting the Public About
Measles Cases in Hillsdale County**

Coldwater, MI – The Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency (BHSJ CHA) has confirmed two cases of measles in Hillsdale County residents. The agency is working closely with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) to investigate the cases and notify anyone who may be exposed. Public exposure sites are being evaluated and will be shared if identified.

Measles is a highly contagious illness that spreads through the air. Checking your vaccination records is a good way to know if you are protected.

Check your measles protection

Most people are considered protected against measles if they:

- Have received the recommended doses of the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine.
- Have a documented history of measles infection or other evidence of immunity.
- Were born before 1957.

Children and some adults may need two doses of the MMR vaccine for the best protection. If you are unsure of your vaccination status, contact your health care provider or BHSJ CHA at 517-437-7395, option 1. You can also check your records at [MCIR.org](https://www.mcir.org).

“Measles spreads easily, but vaccination offers strong protection,” said Dr. Karen Luparello, Medical Director. “We encourage residents to check their vaccination records and contact us if they have questions or concerns.”

Know the Symptoms

Symptoms usually begin 7 to 14 days after exposure, but can take up to 21 days to appear.

Symptoms may include:

- High fever (may spike over 104° F)
- Cough
- Runny nose
- Red, watery eyes
- Tiny white spots in the mouth
- A red, raised, rash that starts on face, spreads to the body

If you develop symptoms and think you may have been exposed, call your healthcare provider before visiting a medical office or emergency room. This helps protect other people from possible exposure.

Vaccination and treatment

The MMR vaccine is the best way to prevent measles. If you may have been exposed, contact your health care provider or BHSJ CHA promptly. Vaccination within 72 hours of exposure may help prevent illness. Some people who cannot receive the vaccine may be eligible for other treatment after exposure.

BHSJ CHA offers MMR vaccines at its offices. Appointments are preferred, but walk-ins are welcome. **The Hillsdale office will also offer MMR vaccinations on Saturday, October 31, from 9 a.m. to noon.**

To schedule an MMR vaccination, discuss a possible exposure, or ask questions as a health care provider, call 517-437-7395 and press option 7. Most insurance plans cover the vaccine. Free or low-cost vaccines may be available for people who qualify.

For more information, visit [Michigan.gov/measles](https://www.michigan.gov/measles). Residents with questions may also email epi@bhsj.org.

The Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency is committed to promoting wellness, preventing disease, providing health care, and protecting the environment. For more information, contact your local office, follow us on Facebook www.facebook.com/BHSJCHA or Instagram www.instagram.com/bhsj_healthagency.

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Hillsdale, MI 49242
(517) 437-7395

St. Joseph County

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(269) 273-2161

Sturgis Office

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