BRANCH-HILLSDALE-ST. JOSEPH COMMUNITY HEALTH AGENCY | YOUR LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT
www.bhsj.org

November 17, 2026

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Measles Outbreaks Designated in Hillsdale and St. Joseph Counties: BHSJ CHA Encourages Residents to Check Vaccination Records and Get Protected

Coldwater, MI – The Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency (BHSJ CHA) is reporting measles outbreaks in Hillsdale and St. Joseph County following an increase in confirmed cases. As of Tuesday, November 17, 2026, six cases have been identified in Hillsdale County, and six cases in St. Joseph County.

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. The agency is also expanding vaccination opportunities to help protect residents and limit further spread of measles.

“Our staff are working with the community, and our partners, to provide information and make vaccinations more accessible,” said Rebecca Burns, Health Officer. “We encourage everyone to take a few minutes to check their vaccination records. Making sure you and your family are protected is an important step in preventing the spread of measles.”

Check your Measles Protection

Measles is a highly contagious illness that spreads through the air. The best way to protect yourself and your family is to make sure everyone has received the recommended doses of the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine.

Everyone should receive two doses for the best possible protection. If you are unsure whether you or your child have received both doses, check your vaccination records at MCIR.org, contact your healthcare provider, or call your local BHSJ CHA office, option 7, press 1.

BHSJ CHA offices are open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., for individuals seeking vaccination. Appointments are preferred, but walk-ins are welcome.

Additional Community Vaccination Clinics

BHSJ CHA is offering additional opportunities for residents to receive the MMR vaccine:

Thursday, November 19, 2026

- Sturgis Office, 1555 E. Chicago Road, Sturgis: 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- Salem Church, 13751 Tripp Road, Waldron: 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Monday, November 23, 2026

- Coldwater Office, 570 N. Marshall Road, Coldwater: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Know the Symptoms

Measles symptoms usually include:

- High fever (may spike over 104º 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

Symptoms may take up to 21 days to appear after exposure.

If you develop symptoms, stay home and call your health care provider. **Call ahead before visiting a medical office, urgent care, or emergency room.** This helps prevent exposing others to measles.

What If You May Have Been Exposed?

If you believe you have been exposed to measles, contact BHSJ CHA or your health care provider as soon as possible. Some people may be able to receive treatment after exposure to help prevent or reduce the severity of illness. Timing is important. MMR vaccination may be

given within 72 hours of exposure, and certain individuals may be eligible for immunoglobulin treatment within six days.

For more information about measles, visit www.bhsj.org/measles or Michigan.gov/measles. Residents with questions may also call BHSJ CHA at 269-273-2161 or 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.

Branch County	**Hillsdale County**	**St. Joseph County**	**Sturgis Office**
570 N. Marshall Rd.	20 Care Drive	1110 Hill St.	1555 E. Chicago Rd.
Coldwater, MI 49036	Hillsdale, MI 49242	Three Rivers, MI 49093	Sturgis, MI 49091
(517) 279-9561	(517) 437-7395	(269) 273-2161	(269) 273-2161
			Wednesday - Friday

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