



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO**
P. O. BOX 3378
HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

November 26, 2024

**MEDICAL ADVISORY: MEASLES VIRUS DETECTED IN CENTRAL AND WEST
MAUI COUNTY WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES**

- Measles virus was detected in wastewater samples collected at Central and West Maui County Wastewater Treatment Facilities (WWTF) on November 18, 2025. Subsequent samples are being tested.
- Providers should be vigilant to the possibility of measles in person presenting with signs and symptoms clinically compatible with measles in persons who reside in or may have visited Maui County during the month of November and should take appropriate actions.

Dear Healthcare Provider:

The Hawaii Department of Health (DOH) has received notification of measles virus detected in wastewater samples collected at Central and West Maui County Wastewater Treatment Facilities (WWTF) on November 18, 2025. Samples were tested through the National Wastewater Surveillance System (NWSS), a national wastewater testing initiative. These results indicate a person (or persons) residing in or visiting the community may have been shedding the measles virus. Providers should be vigilant to the possibility of measles in persons presenting with clinically compatible signs and symptoms. No suspect or confirmed measles from Maui Island have been reported to DOH at this time.

Testing for measles is done at this Maui County WWTF and other wastewater treatment sites across the state to provide an additional means for early detection and response to the presence of measles in the community. Detection of the virus can serve as an early warning signal but cannot prove that an infectious case is present. Testing for measles at the WWTF where the detection occurred is done twice a week. Measles virus was not detected in samples from the facility collected in the week prior to November 18, 2025. Subsequent samples are currently being tested. No other detections have been reported at WWTFs across the state of Hawaii since DOH was notified in October of Kauai's first positive wastewater detection of measles in October, though at the time, no suspected measles cases were identified on the island.

Providers should consider measles in persons with fever and generalized maculopapular rash illness with cough, coryza, or conjunctivitis, and evaluate risk for measles if they reside in or visited Maui County during the month of November or have traveled internationally, or domestically to a region with a [known measles outbreak](#).

If you suspect a measles case:

- **Implement standard and airborne precautions immediately** including isolating the patient in a single-patient airborne infection isolation room (AIIR), or in a private closed room. Provide a face mask for the patient to wear. Patients with suspected measles should not remain in the waiting room or other common areas of a healthcare facility.
- **Immediately report suspected measles infections** to DOH at time of initial evaluation. DO NOT WAIT for laboratory results.
- **Collect specimens for testing and coordinate diagnostic testing with DOH.** Nasopharyngeal or throat swabs, serum and urine should be collected upon initial suspicion of measles. Serologic testing for measles IgM is commercially available. Nasopharyngeal or throat swabs and urine specimens can be tested by Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction (RTPCR) at the State Laboratories Division (SLD). Disease Outbreak Control Division (DOCD) coordination and approval is required before submission of specimens to SLD.

Clinicians should ensure all patients without evidence of immunity to measles are up to date on MMR vaccine per Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) [recommendations](#).

The DOH's [March 11, 2025 medical advisory](#) provides additional detail on actions to take in response to a suspected case of measles that should include immediate implementation of standard and airborne precautions, report of suspicion of measles to DOH at time of initial evaluation, and collection of specimens for testing and coordination of diagnostic testing with DOH. A [checklist](#) to help healthcare providers prepare for and respond to measles is provided with this advisory.

Immediately report to DOH at the time measles infection is suspected. **DO NOT WAIT** for laboratory results. Measles is an URGENT CATEGORY NOTIFIABLE CONDITION and should be reported by calling:

Oahu (Disease Reporting Line)(808) 586-4586
Maui District Health Office(808) 984-8213
Kauai District Health Office(808) 241-3563
Hawaii District Health Office (Hilo)(808) 933-0912
Hawaii District Health Office (Kona)(808) 322-4877
After hours on Oahu(808) 600-3625
After hours on neighbor islands(800) 360-2575 (toll free)

We appreciate your assistance in protecting the health of Hawaii's residents and visitors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Kemble". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sarah K. Kemble, MD
State Epidemiologist

References:

Medical Advisory Rise in Measles Activity in the United States in 2025:
<https://health.Hawaii.gov/docd/files/2025/03/Medical-Advisory-Rise-In-Measles-Activity-in-the-United-States-in-2025-031125.pdf>

Medical Advisory Measles Infection Identified in Oahu International Traveler:
<https://health.Hawaii.gov/docd/files/2025/04/Medical-Advisory-Measles-Infection-Identified-In-Oahu-International-Travel-4-8-25.pdf>

MMWR: Prevention of Measles, Rubella, Congenital Rubella Syndrome, and Mumps, 2013: Summary Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)
<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr6204a1.htm>

CDC Measles checklist for healthcare workers:
<https://www.cdc.gov/measles/downloads/checklist-healthcare-workers.pdf>