March 2024

Utah Department of Health & Human Services

Biosurveillance report

Monitoring nationwide measles outbreaks

What is measles?

- Measles is highly contagious and spreads through the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes.
- It is so contagious that if one person has it, 9 out of 10 people of all ages around them will also become infected if they are not protected.
- Infected people are contagious from 4 days before the rash starts through 4 days afterward.

People at high risk for severe illness and complications include:

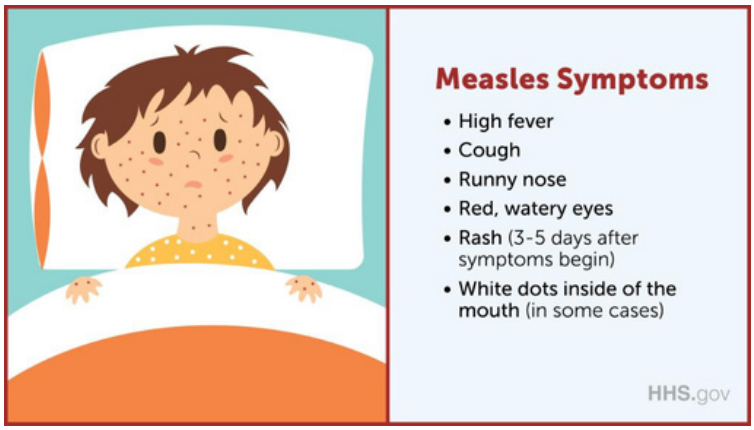
- Infants and children < 5 years
- Adults aged >20 years
- Pregnant persons—even if they've been vaccinated—their immune systems are more susceptible during pregnancy
- People who have weakened immune systems due to medical conditions or transplant surgeries

Measles vaccine

- Measles is almost entirely preventable through vaccination.
- MMR vaccines are safe and highly effective. Two doses are 97% effective against measles (one dose is 93% effective).

Actions to take

- Encourage MMR vaccines in your community.
- Provide additional vaccine clinics for increased accessibility.



Why are cases on the rise?

- Declines in measles vaccination rates globally have increased the risk for measles outbreaks worldwide.
- As of March 21, 2024, a total of 64 measles cases were reported by 17 jurisdictions: Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, New York City, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Washington.
- Most of these cases were among children and adolescents who had not received a measles-containing vaccine (MMR or MMRV), even if age eligible.

Additional resources:

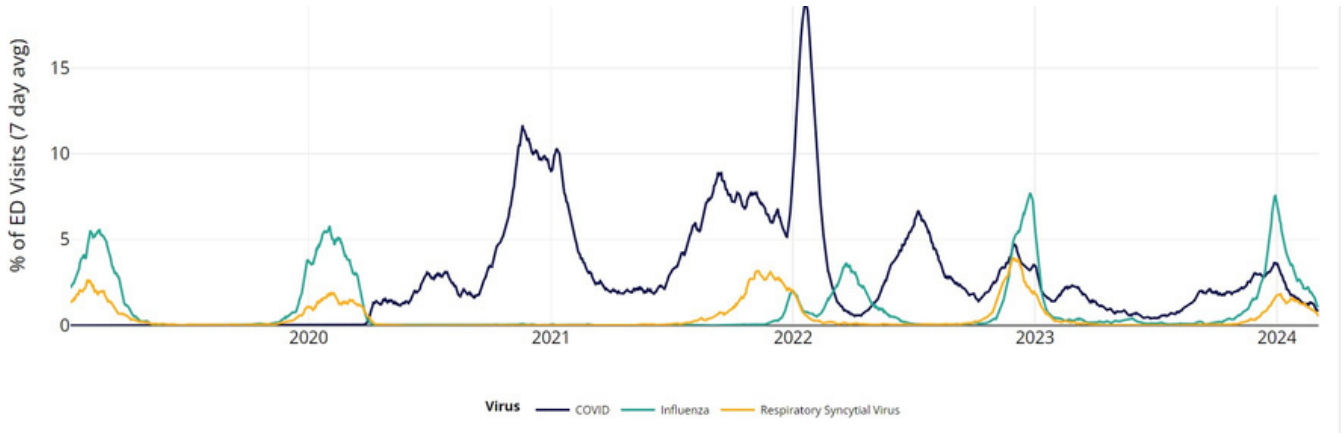
- Measles outbreak toolkit for local/state health departments
- Fact sheet: measles outbreak
- CDC HAN-00504 Increase in Global and Domestic Measles Cases and Outbreaks
- Notes from the Field: Measles Outbreak —Cook County, Illinois, October–November 2023

Updates

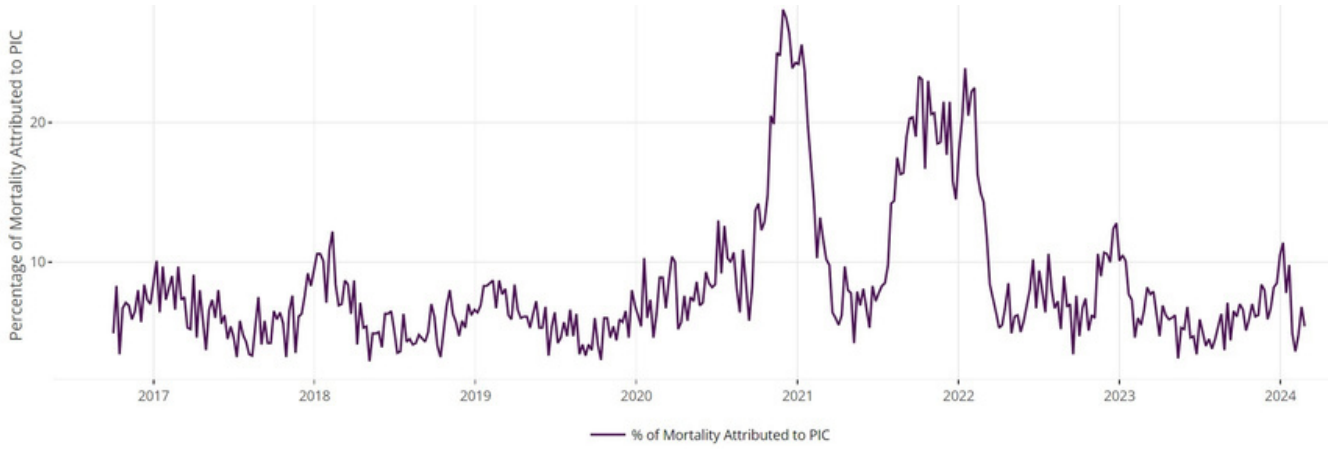
2023—2024 respiratory virus season recap

As the 2023-2024 fall and winter virus season winds down, Utah had a steady respiratory virus season that may represent the new normal.

Syndromic surveillance percentage of emergency department visits in 7 days



Percentage of mortality attributed to pneumonia, influenza, and COVID



Mpox outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

- The current mpox outbreak in the DRC involves virus type Clade I.
  - Clade I is more transmissible, causes severe infections and death in as many as 10% of the people it infects.
  - CDC issued a level 2 travel health notice to practice enhanced precautions when you travel to the DRC due to the Clade I mpox virus outbreak impacting 22 of 26 provinces.
  - At this time, no Clade I MPXV have been reported in the U.S.
- Clade II includes the Clade IIb variant, which was associated with the global outbreak that began in 2022. Infections from Clade IIb MPXV are less severe. More than 99.9% of people survive.
  - Vaccination is only for Clade II and is recommended for people with certain risk factors.

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