



Ashtabula County Health Department
12 West Jefferson Street
Jefferson, Ohio 44047



Jay Becker, M.P.H.
Health Commissioner

Telephone: 440.576.6010
Fax: 440.576.5527

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEPTEMBER 11, 2026

POTENTIAL MEASLES EXPOSURE IN ASHTABULA COUNTY

The Ashtabula County Health Department (ACHD) is reporting a potential measles exposure from a confirmed case of measles in Ashtabula County. While infectious, the individual presented at **University Hospitals Geneva Medical Center**, 870 W. Main St., Geneva, OH 44041 on September 8, 2026. Although the likelihood of contracting measles is low in vaccinated individuals, it is still essential to remain vigilant and take appropriate precautions, especially for individuals without documented immunity against measles.

Measles is a highly contagious virus. Individuals infected with measles can spread it to others, even before they have symptoms. The measles virus can live for up to two hours in the air after an infected person leaves the room. Symptoms usually appear 7-14 days after a person comes in contact with the virus, but it can take as long as 21 days for symptoms to appear.

Symptoms of measles can include high fever, cough, runny nose, watery eyes, and a rash beginning 3-5 days after other symptoms occur. Measles can be serious, and about 1 in 5 people who get measles will be hospitalized with complications such as pneumonia, dehydration, or brain swelling.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends all children get two doses of measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine, starting with the first dose at 12 through 15 months of age and the second dose at 4 through 6 years of age. Anyone traveling internationally should be fully vaccinated before traveling. Infants 6-11 months old should get one dose of the MMR vaccine before travel, then should receive two additional doses after their first birthday. Older children, adolescents, and adults should receive one or two doses of MMR vaccine if they do not have evidence of immunity. If you have received two doses of the MMR vaccine, your chances of getting measles are very low. After two doses, the vaccine is 97% effective at preventing measles.

If you are unvaccinated, or do not know if you are vaccinated, talk to your healthcare provider about vaccination. The MMR vaccine is safe and effective with hundreds of millions of doses given. For information on clinics held by the Ashtabula County Health Department, call Ashtabula County Health Department at (440)576-6010, option 2 for Nursing.

Ashtabula County Health Department does not routinely provide testing or treatment for measles. If you have symptoms, stay home, avoid contact with others, and call your healthcare provider. Please do not show up in the waiting room without contacting the staff first in case you are contagious.

Equal Provider of Services
Equal Opportunity Employer

LOCATIONS OF POTENTIAL EXPOSURE

Measles can spread even before symptoms emerge and people realize they have the disease. The time for exposure includes the period when the individual was at the location listed below and 2 hours after. Anyone who was at the following location during the times listed could have been exposed to measles:

Date/ Time	Location
9/8/2026 11:31 am – 2:15 pm	UH Geneva Medical Center Emergency Department 870 W. Main St. Geneva, OH 44041

What to do if you were in a location of potential measles exposure

Most people in our area have immunity to measles through vaccination, so the risk to the public is low. Anyone who was in the location of potential exposure to measles around the times listed should:

1. **Find out if you have been vaccinated for measles or have had measles previously.** If you are unsure about your vaccination status or previous infections, talk to your healthcare provider.
2. **Call a healthcare provider promptly if you develop illness with fever or unexplained rash.** To avoid possibly spreading measles to others, call the clinic or hospital first to tell them you want to be checked for measles, if possible. It is also important to limit contact with others, especially those without known immunity.
3. **Vaccination or medication can be given after exposure in some cases to prevent illness – check with your healthcare provider.** This is especially important for people at high risk for measles complications.

If you were at the location during the times listed above and are not immune to measles, the symptoms likely would appear between 9/15/2026 and 9/22/2026. People who have weakened immune systems may take longer to experience symptoms.

For more information and updates, visit the Ashtabula County Health Department web site at: <https://ashtabulacountyhealth.com>. For more information about measles, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/measles/>