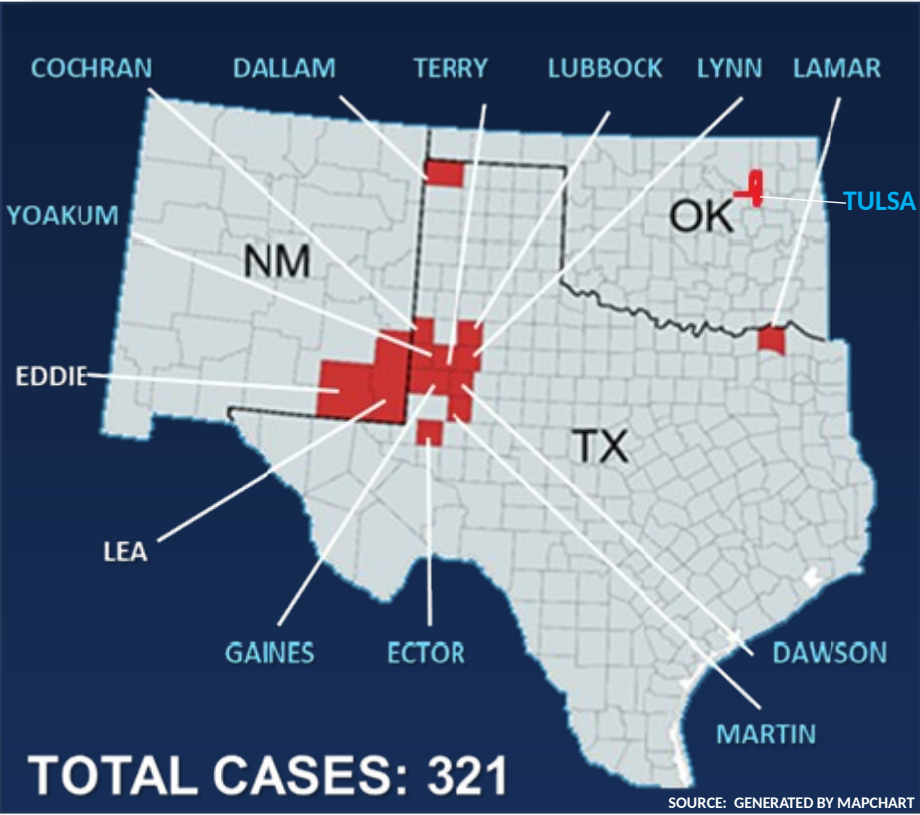





YALE ESF-8 VIRTUAL MEDICAL OPERATION CENTER (VMOC) SPECIAL REPORT

# MEASLES OUTBREAK WEST TEXAS - 2025



MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY			
STATE	CASES 	HOSPITALIZATIONS 	DEATHS 
TX	279	36	1
NM	38	2	1
OK	4	0	0
TOTAL	321	38	2

\*The situation is still developing. Numbers are expected to increase

BACKGROUND

TIMELINE

CURRENT SITUATION

BY THE NUMBERS

NATIONAL

CONTRIBUTORS

Yale  
SCHOOL  
OF PUBLIC  
HEALTH

AS OF:1600 HRS EST  
3/19/2025

NOTE: There are a total of 354 cases nationwide in 18 jurisdictions since 1/1/2025. In all of 2024, there were 285 cases.

LINKS

TEXAS LINKS

- TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
- FACEBOOK | X
- HEALTH ALERTS
- THE SOUTH PLAINS PUBLIC HEALTH DISTRICT

OKLAHOMA LINKS

- OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

NEW MEXICO LINKS

- NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
- NMDOH NEWS RELEASE
- NMDOH GUIDANCE

PORTALS, BLOGS, AND RESOURCES

- CIDRAP
- CORI
- FORCE OF INFECTION
- KHN
- MEDPAGE TODAY
- NY STATE GLOBAL HEALTH UPDATE
- THE PANDEMIC CENTER TRACKING REPORT
- YLE

NEWS SOURCES

- AP
- CBS NEWS
- CNN
- DALLAS MORNING NEWS
- FOX NEWS
- KCBD NEWS
- KERA NEWS
- NEW YORK TIMES
- NEWSWEEK
- NBC NEWS
- NPR
- OUTBREAK NEWS TODAY
- PBS NEWS
- REUTERS
- TX PUBLIC RADIO
- USA TODAY
- WASHINGTON POST

RESOURCES FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

- CDC - MEASLES FOR THE HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS
- CDC VIDEO: MEASLES CLINICAL FEATURES AND DIAGNOSIS
- CDC CLINICAL IMAGES OF MEASLES
- CDC LABORATORY TESTING FOR MEASLES
- CDC ROUTINE VACCINATION RECOMMENDATIONS
- CDC ISOLATION RECOMMENDATIONS
- CDC: MEASLES CONTROL IN HEALTHCARE SETTINGS
- CDC ALERT SIGN INFOGRAPHIC
- CDC POSTER FOR OFFICE DISPLAY
- NY HEALTH: RECOGNIZING MEASLES FACT SHEET
- NY HEALTH: DEALING WITH VACCINE HESITANCY
- MEASLES POST-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS
- MEASLES REVIEW FOR PROVIDERS

RESOURCES FOR THE PUBLIC

- CDC - MEASLES
- MEASLES CASES AND OUTBREAKS
- NYSDOH: YOU CAN PREVENT MEASLES
- CDC VIDEO: GET VACCINATED AND PREVENT MEASLES
- CDC VACCINE SHOT FOR MEASLES
- DIRECTORY FOR LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

RESOURCES FOR EMS PROVIDERS

- GUIDANCE FOR SUSPECTED MEASLES PATIENT
- NYSDOH POLICY STATEMENT

MEASLES TESTING LABORATORIES

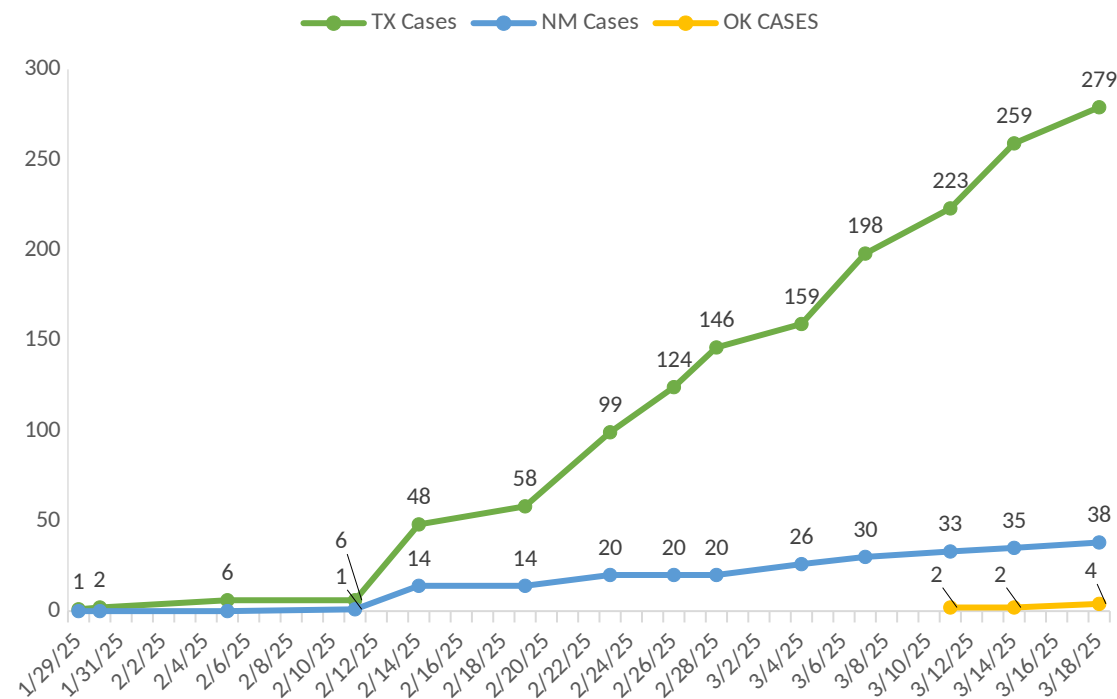
- CDC MEASLES VIRUS LABORATORY

# BACKGROUND

- **TYPE OF PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY:** **LARGE REGIONAL MEASLES OUTBREAK**
- **BACKGROUND:** A measles outbreak in West Texas (TX) has been linked to cases in New Mexico (NM), with additional cases now reported in Oklahoma (OK). This brings the total number of confirmed cases to **321** across the three states.
- **CURRENT SITUATION:**
  - **Texas (TX):** Reports **279 cases** across **11 counties**, primarily in the rural South Plains region. The outbreak is concentrated in **Gaines County, TX**, which accounts for **191** confirmed cases. (Note: Lamar County is reporting 2 additional cases.)
  - **New Mexico (NM):** Reports **38 cases** across **two counties**. Genome sequencing has confirmed that the cases in NM are linked to the Texas outbreak.
  - **Oklahoma (OK):** As of 3/14/2025, the [Oklahoma State Department of Health](#) had reported **four “probable cases”** of measles in the state, with each having “reported exposure associated with the Texas and New Mexico outbreak.”
- **HOSPITALIZATIONS: 36**
  - **TX: 36**
  - **NM: 2**
- **DEATHS:**
  - **TX** - a 6-year-old girl died from pneumonia as a result of the measles. The child was unvaccinated and had no underlying health conditions.
  - **NM** - an adult was diagnosed with measles postmortem, having not sought medical treatment before death.

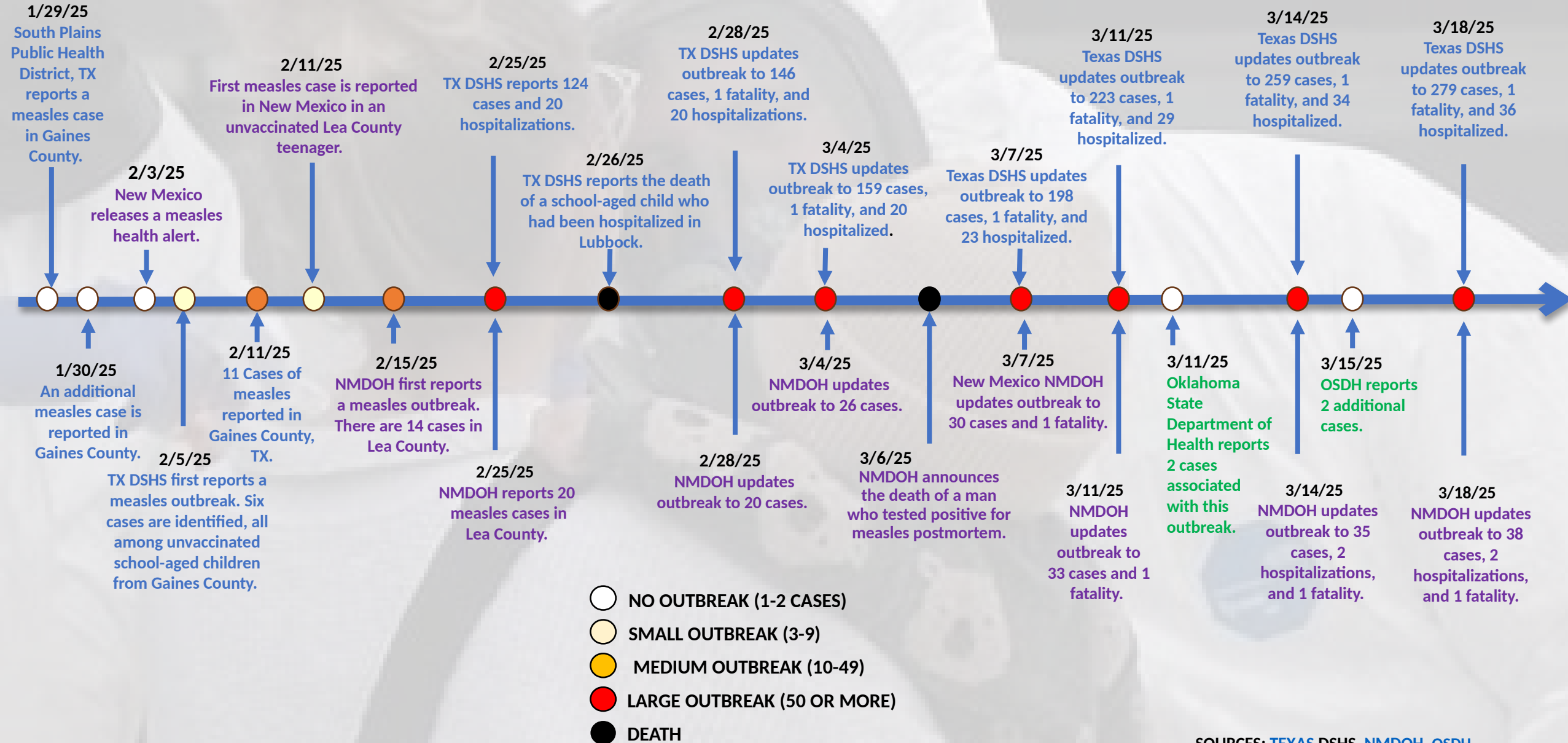
These two cases mark the first measles-related deaths in the U.S. since 2015 and the first death of a child from measles since 2003.

## WEST TEXAS MEASLES OUTBREAK - CUMULATIVE CASES OVER TIME



**CHALLENGES:** The outbreak has not significantly shifted vaccine hesitancy in affected communities. Many residents remain resistant to vaccination, citing deep mistrust in government institutions, particularly in the post-pandemic era. Public health officials continue to stress the importance of vaccination, emphasizing that two doses of the MMR vaccine are highly effective in preventing measles. However, persistent skepticism and misinformation hinder containment efforts.

# 2025 WEST TEXAS MEASLES OUTBREAK TIMELINE (TX & NM)



# CURRENT SITUATION

## LATEST UPDATES:

- **The West Texas Outbreak stands at approximately 321 cases across the three states;** however, experts warn this is a severe undercount.
  - The situation is still developing, and case numbers are expected to rise.
  - Experts [project](#) this outbreak is likely to last a year.
- On 3/14/2025, the Oklahoma State Department of Health had reported **four “probable cases”** of measles in the state, with each having “reported exposure associated with the Texas and New Mexico outbreak.”
- As of Tuesday, 3/18/2025, Mexico confirmed **43** measles cases, **39 of which were recorded in the northern state of Chihuahua and linked to the Texas outbreak.** The cases are concentrated in a Mennonite community around Cuauhtémoc whose members regularly travel to Texas to visit family and carry out business.
  - More than 50% of the cases are in children under nine years old.
  - None of those infected in Chihuahua, Mexico had been immunized.
  - The vaccination rate in the Mexican state of Chihuahua is 75%.
- 

## CASES:

WEST TEXAS OUTBREAK				
0-4 Years	5-17 Years	18+ Years	Pending	Total
88(31.5%)	120(43%)	52(18.5%)	19 (7%)	279
NEW MEXICO OUTBREAK				
0-4 Years	5-17 Years	18+ Years	Pending	Total
7(18%)	10 (26%)	20 (53%)	1 (3%)	38

### NOTE:

[Oklahoma State Health Department Is not releasing any info about the two cases other than what was provided in the news release.](#)

[They are reporting 2 additional cases in the Tampa County area.](#)

### HOSPITALIZATIONS: 38

- TX: 36 have been hospitalized. This is 13% of all confirmed cases.
- NM: 2 have been hospitalized. This is 5% of all confirmed cases.

**DEATHS: 2** No new deaths reported during this period.

**CONTACT TRACING:** Texas, New Mexico, and Oklahoma are conducting contact tracing to help identify and track positive cases and inform people who may have been exposed.

### LABORATORY TESTING:

- In TX: Texas Tech University Bioterrorism Response Laboratory, part of a national network of CDC-funded labs, began measles testing last Monday, 3/3/2025. Prior to that, only the state lab in Austin was performing the test, which resulted in delays due to the distance involved.
- In NM: If measles is suspected, providers are to immediately notify NMDOH by **calling 1-833-SWNURSE, option 4 (1-833-796-8773)** for further guidance and testing approval. They are to obtain a throat swab or nasopharyngeal swab in viral transport medium for PCR testing at the State Public Health Laboratory.

# CURRENT SITUATION

## VACCINATION RATES:

- TX: Vaccination rates are notably low in the most affected areas. In Gaines County, TX, vaccination rates are significantly below the threshold required for herd immunity, contributing to the virus’s rapid spread. In the county, one in five students is not vaccinated with the measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine.
- NM: Reports that [94%](#) of individuals aged 18 and under in Lea County have received at least one dose of the MMR vaccine. This is slightly below the state's overall rate of 95% for the same age group.

STATE	VACCINATED WITH 2 DOSE	UNVACCINATED/ UNKNOWN	TOTAL CASES
TX	2*	277**	279

NOTES:  
\* DSHS has determined that three cases previously classified as vaccinated were not vaccinated cases  
\*\*The TX unvaccinated/unknown category includes people with no documented doses of measles vaccine more than 14 days before symptom onset.

STATE	VACCINATED WITH AT LEAST ONE DOSE	NOT VACCINATED	UNKNOWN	TOTAL CASES
NM	4	29	5	38

Note: Because measles is highly contagious, 95% of the population must be vaccinated to achieve herd immunity and prevent ongoing transmission of the virus.

**IMPACTS ON AREA HOSPITALS** - As of **March 18, 2025**, **38 patients** have required hospitalization due to the ongoing measles outbreak. Many of these cases involve **unvaccinated children** experiencing severe symptoms, including respiratory complications that necessitate **supplemental oxygen and intensive care**. While all area hospitals remain operational, they are facing **challenges** in managing the outbreak.

- INFECTION CONTROL MEASURES:** To prevent further spread within healthcare facilities, hospitals have implemented **strict infection control protocols**:
- Mask Mandates:** UMC Children's Hospital in **Lubbock** has mandated **mask-wearing** in its **first and second-floor common areas** to protect vulnerable patients, including newborns and immunocompromised individuals.
  - Screening and Isolation:** **Midland Memorial Hospital** is conducting **symptom screenings** at entry points and isolating **suspected measles cases** to prevent transmission within the facility.

**INCREASED PATIENT LOAD:** The outbreak has led to a **surge in hospitalizations**, with patients experiencing severe complications such as **pneumonia**. This influx is straining **hospital capacity, staff, and resources** across the region.

- RESOURCE CONSTRAINTS**
- Facilities like the **Lynn County Hospital District** lack specialized **isolation rooms** for infectious diseases and are relying on **makeshift solutions** to manage patient care.
  - Medical supplies, including **PPE, IV fluids, and respiratory support equipment**, are being rapidly consumed, increasing the urgency for restocking and logistical support.

Hospitals continue to coordinate with **public health authorities** to contain the outbreak, emphasizing **vaccination efforts and community awareness** to mitigate further spread.

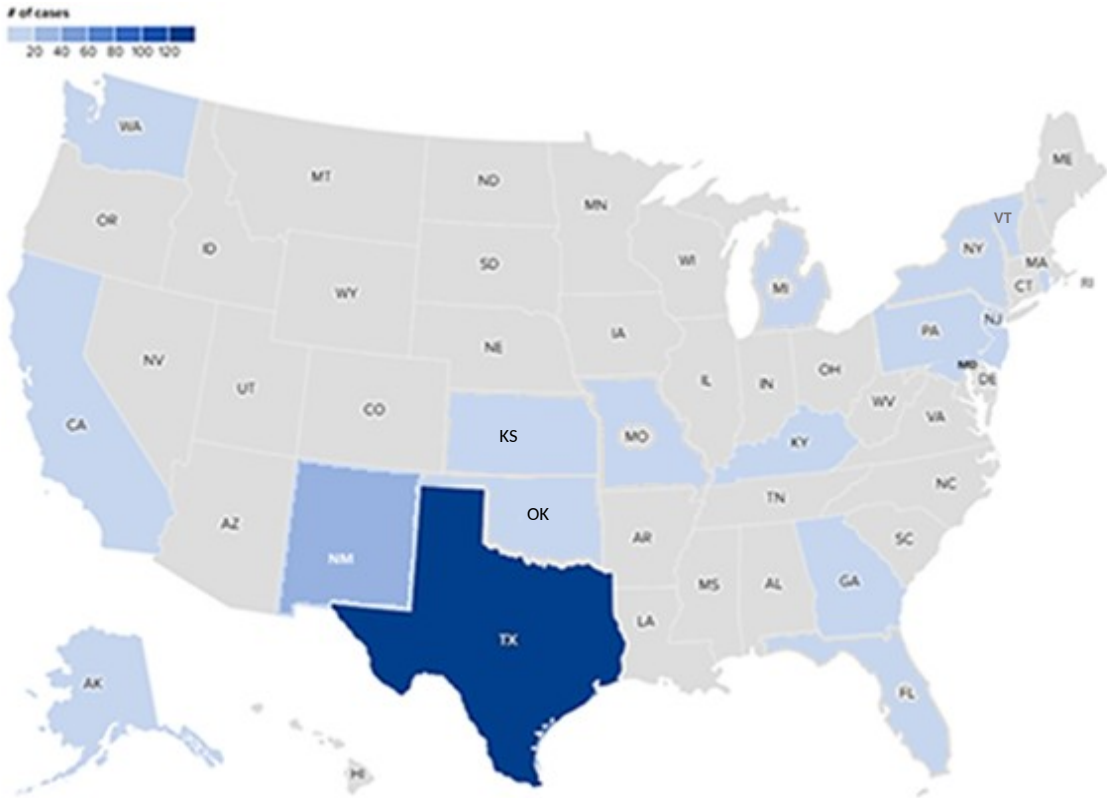
# BY THE NUMBERS

TEXAS			
COUNTY	MEASLES CASES (Number of new cases)	% KINDERGARTENERS VACCINATED (2023-2024)	NUMBER OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN EACH COUNTY WITH MMR VACCINATION RATES BELOW HERD IMMUNITY LEVELS (95%)
Cochran	7 (1)	97.2%	2
Dallam	6	90.96%	3
Dawson	11	88.08%	4
Ector	2	91.28%	5
Gaines	174 (17)	82.97%	3
Lamar	5 (1)	96.6%	5
Lubbock	5 (1)	92.25%	8
Lynn	2	92.16%	2
Martin	3	93.73%	1
Terry	36	95.52%	2
Yoakum	11	92.50%	1
NEW MEXICO			
Eddy	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">18 years or younger: 95% vaccination rate</a></li> <li><a href="#">In adults: 63% have received one shot of MMR, and only 55% have received both shots, according to local health officials, though they noted that there may be vaccinated adults whose records have not been added to the system. Adults make up more than half of reported cases in New Mexico.</a></li> </ul>	
Lea	36 (3)		



# US MEASLES

\* NOTE: The information on this page has been gathered by reviewing data from state health departments, news media sources, and [CORI](#)



354\*

STATE	CASES
<a href="#">ALASKA</a>	2
<a href="#">CALIFORNIA</a>	5
<a href="#">FLORIDA</a>	1
<a href="#">GEORGIA</a>	3
<a href="#">KANSAS</a>	1
<a href="#">KENTUCKY</a>	1
<a href="#">MARYLAND</a>	1
<a href="#">MICHIGAN</a>	1
<a href="#">NEW MEXICO</a>	38
<a href="#">NEW YORK CITY</a>	2
<a href="#">NEW YORK</a>	1
<a href="#">NEW JERSEY</a>	3
<a href="#">PENNSYLVANIA</a>	2
<a href="#">OKLAHOMA</a>	4
<a href="#">RHODE ISLAND</a>	1
<a href="#">TEXAS</a>	279 + 7 ***
<a href="#">VERMONT</a>	1
<a href="#">WASHINGTON</a>	1
TOTAL	254

As of 3/18/2025, 1400 hrs. EST, there are approximately **354** measles cases across **17 States and NYC**.

CDC has reported **four measles outbreaks**: West Texas involving **11 counties**; New Mexico involving **2 counties**; Bergen County, New Jersey; and metro Atlanta, Georgia.

- SMALL OUTBREAK (3-9)
- MEDIUM OUTBREAK (10 - 49)
- LARGE OUTBREAK (50 OR MORE)

**\*\* TEXAS CASES NOT ASSOCIATED WITH OUTBREAK**

- 2 cases - Adults, Harris County (travel-related)
- 1 case - Infant, Harris County, required hospitalizations (travel-related)
- 1 case - Infant, Travis County (travel-related)
- 1 case - Adult, Rockwell County (travel-related)
- 2 cases pending - Lamar County (likely tied to the outbreak)

TEXAS CASES ASSOCIATED WITH THE OUTBREAK: 279

- The increase in measles cases can be attributed to falling vaccination rates and to increased international travel, which can result in unvaccinated people acquiring measles abroad and bringing it to the U.S.
- There have been three confirmed outbreaks of measles in the U.S. so far in 2025, with 93% of cases linked to these domestic outbreaks.

# CONTACT AND CONTRIBUTORS

The Virtual Medical Operations Center Briefs (VMOC) were created as a service-learning project by faculty and graduate students at the Yale School of Public Health in response to the 2010 Haiti Earthquake. Each year, the VMOC Briefs are produced by students enrolled in Environmental Health Science Course 581 - Public Health Emergencies: Disaster Planning and Response. These briefs compile diverse information sources – including status reports, maps, news articles, and web content– into a single, easily digestible document that can be widely shared and used interactively.

Key features of this report include:

- **Comprehensive Overview:** Provides situation updates, maps, relevant news, and web resources.
- **Accessibility:** Designed for easy reading, wide distribution, and interactive use.
- **Collaboration:** The “unlocked” format enables seamless sharing, copying, and adaptation by other responders.

The students learn by doing, quickly discovering how and where to find critical information and presenting it in an easily understood manner.

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