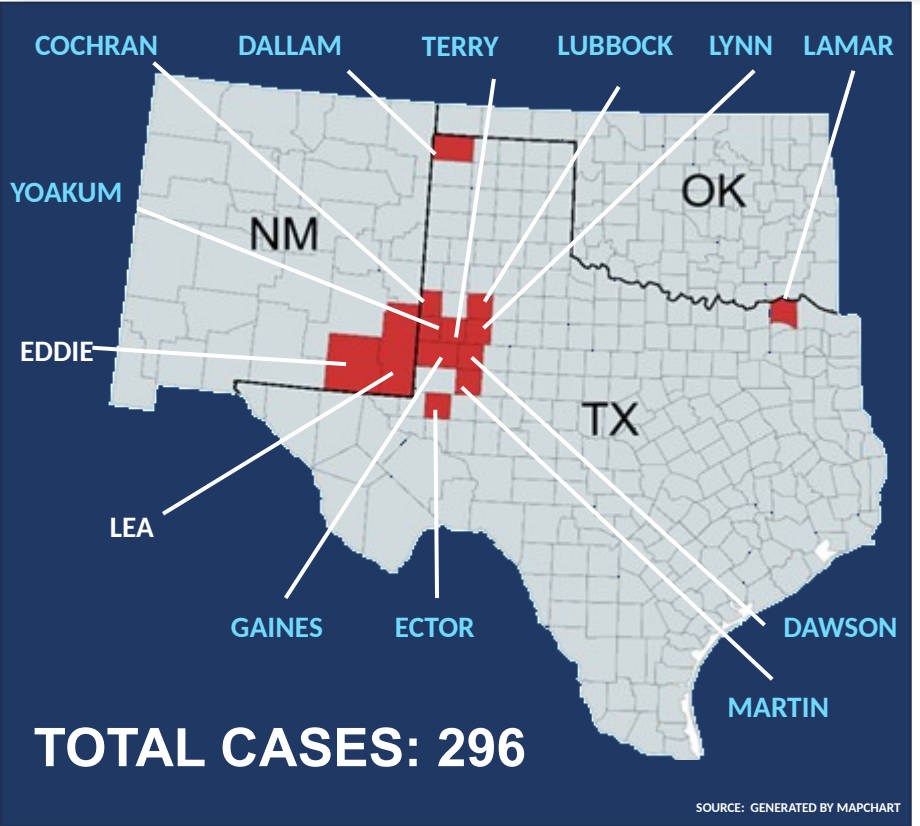





YALE ESF-8 VIRTUAL MEDICAL OPERATION CENTER (VMOC) SPECIAL REPORT

MEASLES OUTBREAK WEST TEXAS - 2025



MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY

AS OF 3/11/2025	TX	NM	OK
 CASES	259	35	2
*The situation is still developing. Numbers are expected to increase			
 HOSPITALIZATIONS	34	2	0
 DEATHS	1	1	0

BACKGROUND

TIMELINE

CURRENT SITUATION

BY THE NUMBERS

NATIONAL

CONTRIBUTORS

Yale
SCHOOL
OF PUBLIC
HEALTH

AS OF: 2300 HRS EST
3/14/2025

NOTE: As of tonight, there are a total of **326 cases**, nationwide in 17 jurisdictions. In all of 2024, there were 285 case.

LINKS

TEXAS LINKS

- [TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES](#)
- [FACEBOOK](#) | [X](#)
- [HEALTH ALERTS](#)
- [THE SOUTH PLAINS PUBLIC HEALTH DISTRICT](#)

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](#)

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](#)

MEASLES TESTING LABORATORIES

- [CDC MEASLES VIRUS LABORATORY](#)

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 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

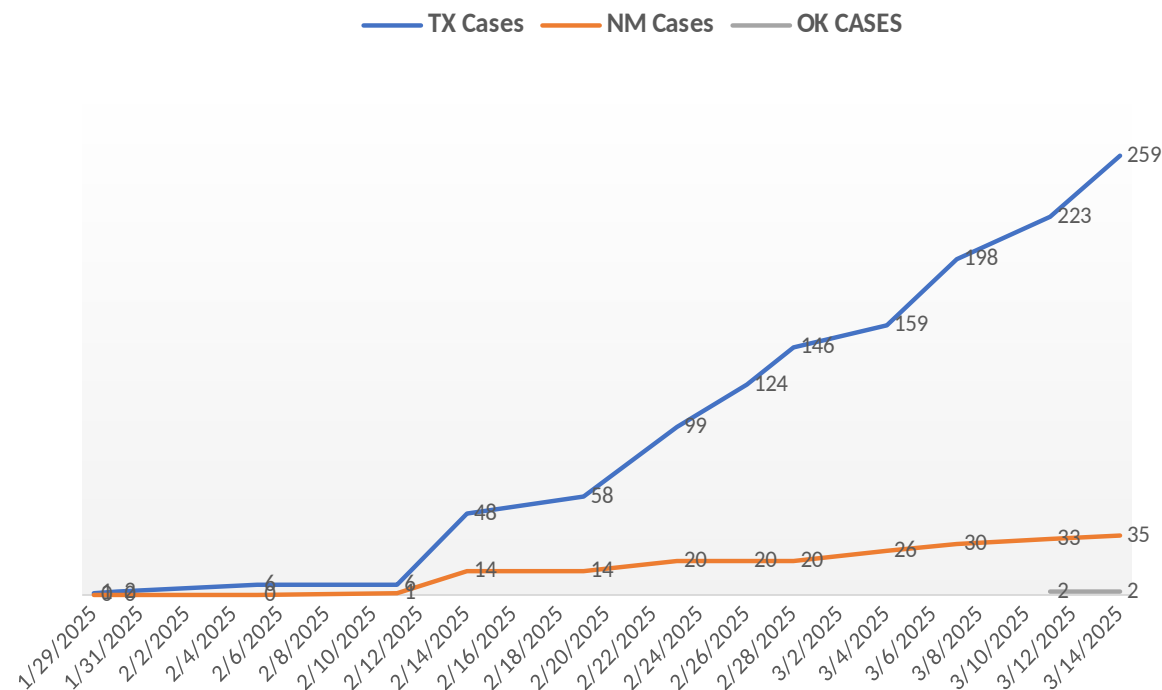
- [GUIDANCE FOR SUSPECTED MEASLES PATIENT](#)
- [NYSDOH POLICY STATEMENT](#)

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 **296** across the three states.
- **CURRENT SITUATION:**
 - **Texas (TX):** Reports **259 cases** across **11 counties**, primarily in the rural South Plains region. The outbreak is concentrated in **Gaines County, TX**, which accounts for **174** confirmed cases.
 - **New Mexico (NM):** Reports **35 cases** across **two counties**. Genome sequencing has confirmed that the strain is linked to the Texas outbreak.
 - **Oklahoma (OK):** Reports **two cases**, both epidemiologically connected to the West Texas outbreak
- **HOSPITALIZATIONS: 36**
 - **TX: 34**
 - **NM: 2**
- **DEATHS:**
 - **TX** - a school-aged child from the outbreak area has died from measles. The child was unvaccinated and had no known underlying health conditions.
 - **NM** - an adult was diagnosed with measles postmortem, having not sought medical treatment before death.

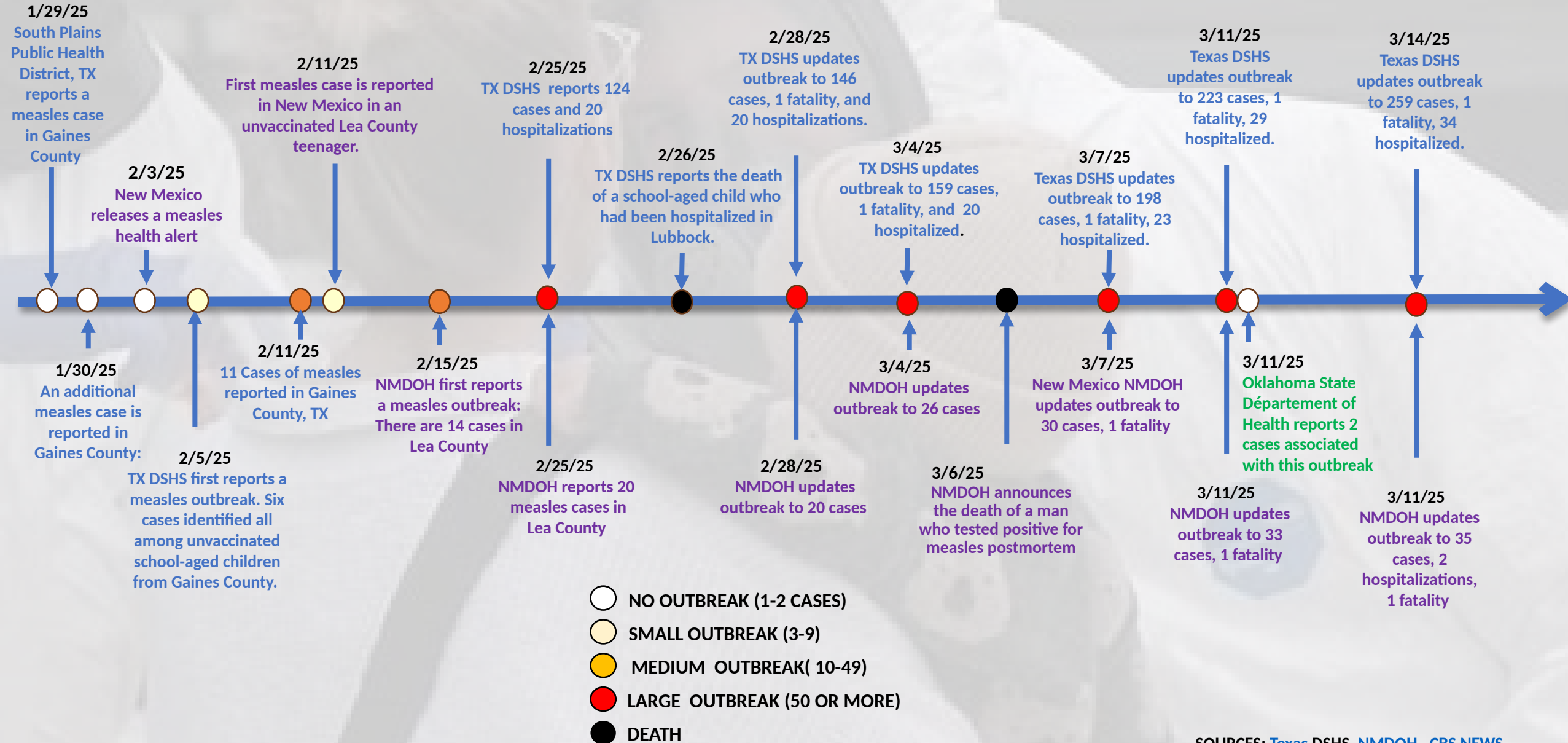
These two cases mark the first measles-related deaths in the U.S. since 2015 and the first death of a child from measles since 2003.

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:

- **A regional measles outbreak has been declared in Texas (TX) and New Mexico (NM)** due to strong epidemiological and genomic links between cases in both states and Oklahoma where two cases were directly connected to this outbreak through contact tracing.
- **Texas has added two new counties:** Cochran with 6 new cases and Lamar County with four cases. Lamar County is located along the Texas-Oklahoma border in North Texas. All new cases associated with the ongoing outbreak through contact tracing.
- **The total confirmed case count stands at 296 across the three states;** however, experts warn this is a severe undercount. The situation is still developing, and case numbers are expected to rise.
- On 3/12/2025, authorities in Chihuahua, Mexico, confirmed **15 measles cases in a Mennonite community in the western portion of the state.**
A 16th case has been confirmed in the city of Namiquipa. Chihuahua health authorities believe residents who have family in Texas or who traveled there to acquire farming implements carried the illness back home.

CASES:

TEXAS				
0-4 Years	5-17 Years	18+ Years	Pending	Total
86(33%)	115 (44%)	46 (18%)	12(5%)	259
NEW MEXICO				
0-4 Years	5-17 Years	18+ Years	Pending	Total
5(14%)	10 (28.5%)	19(54%)	3 (8.5%)	35

NOTE:

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

HOSPITALIZATION: 36

- TX: 34 have been hospitalized. This is 13% of all confirmed cases.
- NM: 2 have been hospitalized. This is 6% 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 the only the state lab in Austin were 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. 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 MMR vaccine.
- NM: Reports that [94%](#) of individuals aged 18 and under have received at least one dose of the measles-mumps-rubella (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*	257**	259

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	2	28	5	35

FACTORS IMPACTING VACCINATIONS RATES:

1. VACCINE HESITANCY AND MISINFORMATION

- Misinformation and Distrust:** Social media and online platforms spread misinformation about vaccine safety, leading to vaccine hesitancy.
- Religious and Philosophical Exemptions:** Texas allows exemptions for religious and personal beliefs, which can reduce vaccine uptake.
- Historical Distrust of Government:** Certain communities, including rural populations and some ethnic groups, have historical distrust in government-led health initiatives.

2. POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE BARRIERS

- Exemption Policies in Texas:** Texas has relatively lax vaccine exemption policies, allowing parents to refuse vaccines for personal beliefs. This leads to clusters of unvaccinated children, increasing the risk of outbreaks.
- Vaccine Mandates and Enforcement:** While New Mexico has stricter requirements, enforcement of vaccination for school entry can be inconsistent.

3. ACCESS AND HEALTHCARE INFRASTRUCTURE

- Rural and Underserved Communities:** Both states have large rural populations with limited access to healthcare facilities. New Mexico, in particular, has vast areas with physician shortages.
- Healthcare Provider Shortages:** A lack of pediatricians and primary care providers in rural areas makes it harder for families to get routine immunizations.
- Limited Transportation:** Many rural residents, particularly in New Mexico, may struggle to reach vaccination sites.

CURRENT SITUATION

IMPACTS ON AREA HOSPITALS: As of March 14, 2025, 36 patients have required hospitalization. Many of these cases involve unvaccinated children experiencing severe symptoms, including respiratory complications that require supplemental oxygen and intensive care. While all area hospitals remain operational, they face significant 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.

Challenges in Rural Areas - Rural hospitals face unique obstacles in responding to the outbreak, including:

- **Infrastructure Limitations:** Many facilities lack specialized isolation rooms, making effective containment difficult. For instance, the Lynn County Hospital District has had to improvise isolation areas due to inadequate infrastructure.
- **Resource Constraints:** Long distances between healthcare providers and testing laboratories complicate timely diagnosis and treatment, delaying critical outbreak response efforts.

• UMC Children's Hospital in Lubbock:

- In response to the outbreak, UMC Children's Hospital has implemented mandatory mask requirements in its first- and second-floor common areas to protect vulnerable patients, including newborns and those with compromised immune systems.
- This policy change was prompted in part by a woman who gave birth at the hospital on 3/12 and was later [diagnosed with measles](#), unknowingly exposing other new mothers, newborns, their families, and hospital staff members.
- Exposed infants were given injections of immunoglobulin, an antibody that helps their fragile immune system fight off infections

- **Midland Memorial Hospital Policy:** Patients and visitors entering the facility are asked about symptoms to help mitigate the spread of measles. Staff screen patients for fever, rash, cough, runny nose and red or watery eyes. Those suspected with symptoms will be isolated to prevent spread.

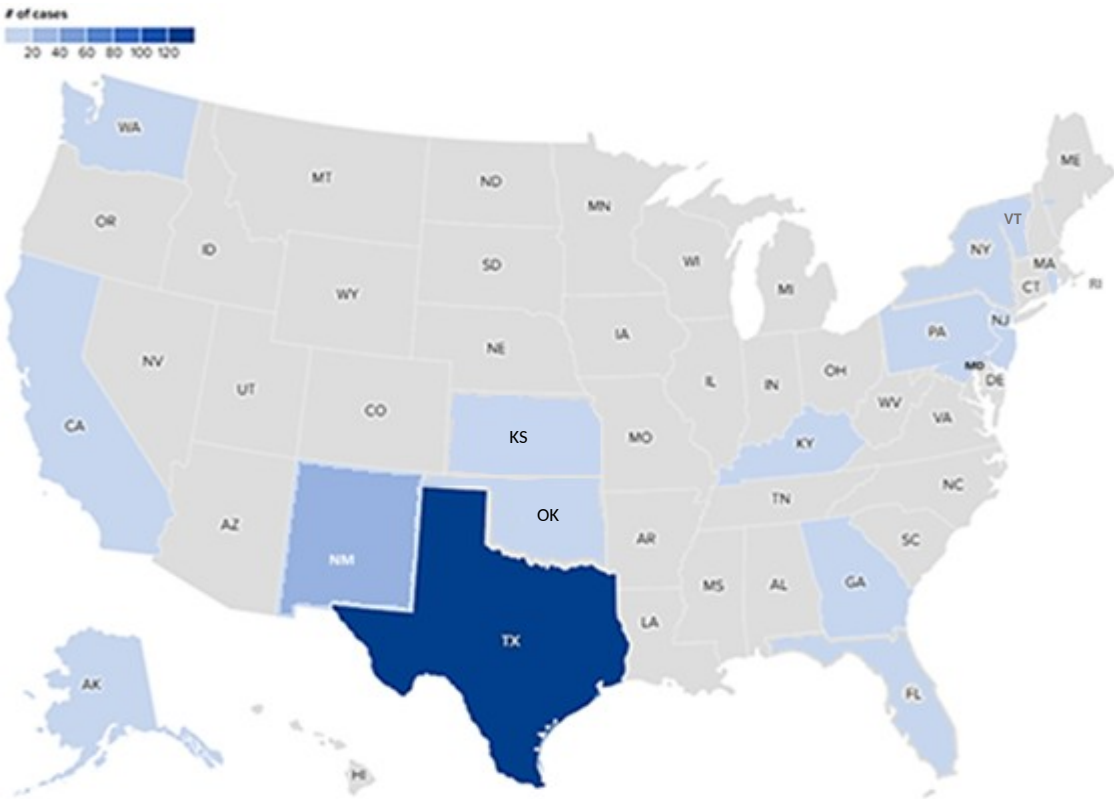
- **Lynn County Hospital District:** Facing infrastructure challenges, the [Lynn County Hospital District](#) has had to resort to makeshift solutions, such as using duct tape, HEPA filters, and portable fans to create negative pressure environments for isolating patients. This highlights the strain on rural healthcare facilities during the outbreak.

BY THE NUMBERS

TEXAS			
COUNTY	MEASLES CASES	% KINDERGARTENERS VACCINATED (2023-2024)	NUMBER OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN EACH COUNTY WITH MMR VACCINATION RATES BELOW HERD IMMUNITY LEVELS (95%)
Cochran	6 (NEW)		
Dallam	6 (+1+)	90.96%	3
Dawson	11 (+1)	88.08%	4
Ector	2	91.28%	5
Gaines	174 (+18)	82.97%	3
Lamar	4 (NEW)		
Lubbock	4 (+1)	92.25%	8
Lynn	2	92.16%	2
Martin	3	93.73	1
Terry	36 (+4)	95.52%	2
Yoakum	11 (+1)	92.50%	1
NEW MEXICO			
Eddy	2 (+1)	?	
Lea	33 (+1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18 years or younger: 95% for those 18 years or younger 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. 	

SIGNS, SYMPTOMS, AND COMPLICATIONS

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



326*

STATE	CASES
ALASKA	2
CALIFORNIA	5
FLORIDA	1
GEORGIA	3
KANSAS	1
KENTUCKY	1
MARYLAND	1
MICHIGAN	1
NEW MEXICO	35
NEW YORK CITY	3
NEW JERSEY	3
PENNSYLVANIA	2
OKLAHOMA	2 **
RHODE ISLAND	1
TEXAS	259 + 4 ***
VERMONT	1
WASHINGTON	1
TOTAL	326

As of 3/14/2025, 2300 hrs. EST, there are approximately **326** measles cases across **16 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)**

** THE OK CASES ARE ASSOCIATED WITH THE TX/NM OUTBREAKS

- *** TEXAS CASES NOT ASSOCIATED WITH OUTBREAK
- 2 cases - Adults, Harris County (travel-related)
 - 1 case - Infant, Travis County (travel-related)
 - 1 case - Adult, Rockwell County (travel-related)

TEXAS CASES ASSOCIATED WITH THE OUTBREAK: 223

- Measles poses a moderate to high risk for universities after Spring Break due to its extreme contagiousness and travel-related cases. Students returning from outbreak areas (e.g., New Mexico and West Texas) could introduce the virus, especially if exposed during travel and still in the 7-21day incubation period.
- While Yale requires the MMR vaccination, gaps exist due to exemptions, waning immunity, or unvaccinated international students.
- With rapid campus spread possible, vaccination checks, symptom monitoring, early detection, and isolation are crucial to prevention.

CONTACTS 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 EHS 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.

Yale MPH Student Contributors:

Vanessa Evardone
Lucy Gilchrist
Nayeli Gonzalez-Vazquez
Monica Gomes
Rachel Kane

Nathan Lai
Elly Maldur
Shoa Moosavi
Bryn Redal
Christina Tong

LTC (R) Joanne McGovern – Joanne.McGovern@yale.edu

Lecturer, Department of Environmental Health Sciences, Yale School of Public Health