

MnVFC Announcement

Date: December 9, 2024

To: MnVFC Providers

From: MnVFC Program

Re: Measles outbreak over; vigilance remains key

Please route to:

- Clinical supervisor
- Medical director
- Clinic manager
- Clinic staff
- Pharmacy
- Vaccine staff

The measles outbreak in Minnesota, which occurred from May to Sept., has officially ended with 52 reported cases. However, measles remains a threat as new travel-related cases continue to emerge. There is the risk of a new outbreak each time an unvaccinated person returns to Minnesota with measles. In addition to the outbreak, there have been six travel-related cases of measles which led to the infection of an additional 10 people. Between the outbreak and the additional cases of measles, Minnesota has had 70 cases of measles cases in 2024.

Measles continues to be a global threat, we must continue the work to increase our immunization rates in Minnesota. Here are some steps you can take to help us in that goal:

- Ask your patients if they have plans to travel. MMR can be given to children as young as 6 months old who are traveling internationally.
- Review MMR vaccination status at every patient visit and encourage vaccination for those who are not immunized.
- Prioritize MMR vaccination by adding vaccine-only appointments as needed.
- Revisit the MMR conversation even if a parent has refused in the past. There is a perception among some parents that MMR vaccine is not needed because of low measles disease rates in the US. A recent outbreak of measles may cause some parents to rethink their decision to delay vaccination.
- Identify and recall children who are overdue or recommended for a dose of MMR vaccine. The Client Follow Up (CFU) feature in MIIC can be used to identify and recall these children in your practice. For more information on utilizing CFU, visit [Client Follow-Up MIIC User Guidance and Training Resources \(www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/miic/train/followup.html\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/miic/train/followup.html).
- Once you have a list of patients identified as unvaccinated and under vaccinated, you can use it to implement your own reminders or participate in the MIIC texting program to send MMR specific texts to patients. For more information on the MIIC texting program, email health.miic texting@state.mn.us. The program is easy to set up and requires just a few details sent via email to ensure the correct patients are identified and sent messages.
- Resources to support communication and outreach to patients is available on [Measles \(Rubeola\) Basics \(www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/measles/basics.html\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/measles/basics.html).

We extend our gratitude to the dedicated clinics, hospitals, and local public health teams whose vigilant efforts in identifying and managing cases, as well as promoting immunization, played a key role in bringing the outbreak to a close.