



Measles Surge: Texas Hits 663 Cases Amid US Outbreaks

Description

Measles cases in Texas have surged to 663, according to the state's health department, marking an increase of 17 cases since April 25. This rise occurs amid one of the gravest outbreaks of the previously eradicated childhood disease in the US.

Gaines County, at the epicenter of the outbreak, reported 396 cases, an uptick of three since its last update. The Texas Department of State Health Services noted that 87 patients have required hospitalization.

Tragically, an eight-year-old child succumbed to measles on April 3, as reported by health secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. Without underlying health issues, the child died from what their doctor termed as "measles pulmonary failure." Similarly, an unvaccinated six-year-old, also free of preexisting conditions, died in late February.

Health experts warn that the nation is precariously close to a resurgence of endemic measles, decades after the disease was declared eradicated in the country. "Although the rate of increase appears to be slowing, the ongoing rise in cases remains alarming," said Sapna Singh, chief medical officer at Texas Children's Pediatrics.

Meanwhile, New Mexico reported 66 cases, unchanged from its prior announcement, with most originating in Lea County, adjacent to Gaines County. Singh added, "Ideally, a few weeks without new cases would be a hopeful sign."

Nationwide, the battle against measles is hindered by insufficient advocacy for vaccination and parental confusion from unverified treatment claims. Experts emphasize that vaccination is crucial, as measles, an airborne virus, spreads rapidly through breathing, sneezing, or coughing.

With active outbreaks in several states, the US approaches 900 cases, as per the CDC's data. High vaccination rates, exceeding 95%, create "herd immunity," reducing disease spread. However, vaccine coverage has waned post-pandemic, with more parents seeking exemptions for their children.

Vocabulary List:

1. **Surged** /sɜːrdʒd/ (verb): To increase suddenly and dramatically.
2. **Uptick** /'ʌp.tɪk/ (noun): A small increase or improvement.
3. **Endemic** /ɛn'dɛmɪk/ (adjective): Regularly found and restricted to a particular area or region.
4. **Erupted** /ɪ'rʌptɪd/ (verb): To burst forth or break out suddenly.
5. **Hindered** /'hɪndəd/ (verb): To create difficulties for someone or something resulting in a delay or obstruction.
6. **Immunity** /ɪ'mjʊnɪti/ (noun): The ability of an organism to resist infection or disease.



Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice

1. How many measles cases were reported in Texas according to the state's health department?
Option: 663
Option: 396
Option: 87
Option: 66
2. Which county in Texas reported the most measles cases?
Option: Gaines County
Option: Lea County
Option: Travis County
Option: Harris County
3. What was the cause of death for the eight-year-old child who succumbed to measles?
Option: Measles pulmonary failure
Option: Complications from vaccination
Option: Underlying health issues
Option: Pulmonary infection
4. What is emphasized by health experts as crucial to combat measles?
Option: Antibiotics
Option: Social distancing
Option: Vaccination
Option: Herbal remedies
5. What is a major hindrance in the battle against measles nationwide?
Option: Lack of healthcare facilities
Option: Insufficient advocacy for vaccination
Option: Government regulations
Option: Climate change
6. What phenomenon is mentioned as reducing disease spread due to high vaccination rates?
Option: Social contagion



- Option: Epidemiological control
- Option: Herd immunity
- Option: Immune shielding

True-False

- 7. Measles was declared eradicated in the US before the recent outbreak.
- 8. The measles outbreak is limited to Texas only.
- 9. New Mexico has reported more measles cases than Texas.
- 10. Vaccination is not considered crucial in combating measles by health experts.
- 11. Parental confusion from unverified treatment claims aids the battle against measles.
- 12. High vaccination rates can lead to herd immunity, reducing disease spread.

Gap-Fill

- 16. The battle against measles is hindered by insufficient advocacy for _____.
- 17. Measles is an airborne virus that spreads rapidly through _____.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. 663 2. Gaines County 3. Measles pulmonary failure 4. Vaccination 5. Insufficient advocacy for vaccination 6. Herd immunity

True-False: 7. False 8. False 9. False 10. False 11. False 12. True

Gap-Fill: 16. vaccination 17. breathing, sneezing, or coughing

CATEGORY

- 1. Health - LEVEL4

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Author

aimeeyoung99