



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

Vocabulary quizzes

Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. Which body system is primarily responsible for the circulation of blood throughout the body?



- Option: Digestive system
- Option: Respiratory system
- Option: Cardiovascular system
- Option: Nervous system

2. Which eye condition is characterized by optic nerve damage often associated with increased intraocular pressure?

- Option: Cataracts
- Option: Myopia
- Option: Glaucoma
- Option: Astigmatism

3. What term is used to describe a disease that is regularly found and maintained at a certain level in a specific geographic area?

- Option: Epidemic
- Option: Endemic
- Option: Pandemic
- Option: Seasonal

4. Which type of treatment is intended to heal or relieve symptoms of a disease?

- Option: Preventive
- Option: Therapeutic
- Option: Diagnostic
- Option: Holistic

5. What term refers to biological processes that follow a daily cycle often influenced by light and darkness?

- Option: Circadian
- Option: Nocturnal
- Option: Diurnal
- Option: Biannual

6. What is the body's ability to resist or defend against a specific disease or infection?

- Option: Resistance
- Option: Adaptability
- Option: Immunity
- Option: Vulnerability

7. Which term describes a sudden and significant increase in something such as cases of a particular disease?



- Option: Declined
- Option: Stabilized
- Option: Fluctuated
- Option: Surged

8. Which term refers to individuals in the stage of development between childhood and adulthood?

- Option: Infants
- Option: Teenagers
- Option: Adolescents
- Option: Elderly

9. What term is used for drugs or other substances used to treat cure or prevent diseases or medical conditions?

- Option: Prescription
- Option: Medication
- Option: Supplement
- Option: Placebo

10. Which term refers to statistical data relating to the population and particular groups within it?

- Option: Geography
- Option: Demographics
- Option: History
- Option: Economics

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

- 11. The researchers _____ a new gene associated with the rare disorder.
- 12. The patient underwent surgery and _____ recovered from the illness.
- 13. The doctor prescribed medication to help _____ the patient's pain.
- 14. The scientist will _____ a theory to explain the unusual results.
- 15. The heavy traffic _____ the progress of the emergency vehicles.
- 16. The disease is believed to be _____ inherited from parents.
- 17. The company takes a _____ approach to prevent accidents in the workplace.
- 18. Regular exercise can help boost the _____.



19. The medication may cause _____ side effects in some patients.
20. The lack of funding _____ the progress of the research project.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

21. This condition leads to the gradual deterioration of organs or tissues over time.
22. The study patterns causes and effects of health and disease conditions in defined populations.
23. The project came under intense from various regulatory bodies.
24. The new policy has a wide range of stakeholders.
25. The government introduced new to control pollution levels in urban areas.
26. The unexpected results of the study could completely existing theories.
27. The field of deals with the properties of light and vision.
28. The storm was by strong winds and heavy rain.
29. data can help businesses target specific consumer groups more effectively.
30. The teacher kept the importance of thorough research in the academic field.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Cardiovascular system 2. Glaucoma 3. Endemic 4. Therapeutic 5. Circadian 6. Immunity 7. Surged 8. Adolescents 9. Medication 10. Demographics

Gap-Fill: 11. identified 12. subsequently 13. alleviate 14. postulate 15. impeded 16. genetically 17. proactive 18. immune system 19. adverse 20. hindered

Matching sentence: 1. degenerative 2. epidemiologist 3. scrutiny 4. impacted 5. regulation 6. upend 7. optics 8. preceded 9. Demographics 10. emphasizing

CATEGORY

1. Health - LEVEL4

Date Created

2025/05/01

Author

aimeeyoung99