



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

## PROVIDER HEALTH ADVISORY

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**Date:** October 9, 2026

**Contact:** County Health Officer, 805-781-5500

### SLO County Confirms First Case of Measles in 2026, Take Precautions

#### First confirmed case in 2026

SLO County had its [first case of measles in 2026](#) this week confirmed by laboratory testing. Public Health is working with the individual and their healthcare providers to identify and notify people who may have been exposed.

Public Health has currently identified the following potential community exposure locations and times linked to this case:

- Family Industrial Medical Center:  
October 5 between 8:30–10:30 a.m. and October 6 between 12:30–3:00 p.m.
- Arroyo Grande Community Hospital (Emergency Room Only):  
October 7 between 6:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

**Please remain alert for potential measles cases** and ensure staff are prepared to quickly identify, isolate and report suspected cases.

#### When to suspect measles

[Healthcare providers should consider measles](#) in patients with a fever lasting several days followed by:

- The “3 C’s”: cough, coryza, and conjunctivitis
- Maculopapular rash
- White lesions in the mouth (Koplik spots)
- Recent international or domestic travel
- Recent visit to venues with international visitors
- Known exposure to a measles case

Measles should be considered in any patient that fits the clinical presentation, regardless of vaccination history. The rash typically begins on the face, along the hairline and behind the ears before spreading downward. Patients are infectious from four days before rash onset through four days afterward (rash onset being day zero). Exposed individuals should monitor symptoms like fever and/or rash for 21 days following exposure.

#### Preparedness and infection control

Facilities should maintain documentation of measles immunity for all personnel, specifically documentation of two doses at least 28 days apart, or documented IgG positive test for measles.

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#### Department of Public Health

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[www.slopublichealth.org](http://www.slopublichealth.org)

**If you encounter a suspected case** (or a patient presents with symptoms compatible with measles), healthcare providers should immediately implement appropriate infection control measures:

- **Promptly mask and isolate suspected cases**, identify suitable isolation rooms.
- Use an **N95 respirator or PAPR for all staff** regardless of presumptive or known immunity status.
- Train staff to recognize measles symptoms.
- Refer to the [California Department of Public Health Measles Healthcare Exposure Investigation Quicksheet](#) to ensure compliance and protect both patients and staff.

## Measles testing guidance

CDPH recommends testing for measles after rash onset for the best chance of laboratory confirmation. Suspected cases should be isolated until a rash develops or symptoms are resolved.

Coordinate with the County of SLO Public Health Laboratory before collecting or submitting specimens. For collection and submission instructions, including which specimens to collect (throat swab and urine for PCR; serum for serology when indicated), visit the Public Health Lab's [measles virus PCR webpage](#).

## Reporting cases

For suspected cases, promptly call and report the case to the County of SLO Public Health Department at 805-781-5500 (M-F, 8 a.m.5 p.m.) or 805-781-4553 (weekends and after hours), even before laboratory confirmation, to discuss measles testing and control measures.

*For more clinical response guidance, see an [earlier measles update](#) or contact our team for questions.*

### Resources:

1. [California Department of Public Health Measles Outbreak Page](#)
2. [California Department of Public Health Key Messages](#)
3. [California Department of Public Health | Immunization Branch, "Should I Test for Measles?" Fact Sheet](#)
4. [CDPH Testing Guidance](#)
5. [County of San Luis Obispo Public Health Laboratory | Measles Virus PCR Testing](#)
6. [CDC Measles Cases and Outbreaks](#)