Montana Health Alert Network

DPHHS HAN

Information Sheet

DATE

November 10, 2026

SUBJECT

Carbon County Reports Confirmed Measles Cases

SUMMARY

The Carbon County Public Health Department issued a Health Advisory to notify health care providers of two confirmed cases of measles in the county. Health care providers are encouraged to maintain heightened awareness of patients presenting with symptoms consistent with measles, particularly those who are unvaccinated, have incomplete vaccination records, or may have had contact with an individual diagnosed with measles.

Further information regarding public measles exposure sites is available on the Carbon County Public Health Department's website and Yellowstone County's RiverStone Health website. Any updated information on measles exposure locations in Carbon and Yellowstone Counties will be made available there.

BACKGROUND

See attached Carbon County HAN

INFORMATION

See attached Carbon County HAN

RECOMMENDATIONS

See attached Carbon County HAN

CARBON COUNTY
MONTANA

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Office: 406.446.9941 | **Fax:** 406.446.1274 | **Email:** PublicHealth@CarbonMT.gov

HAN ALERT: HEALTHCARE PERSONNEL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 10, 2026

Contact: Carbon County Public Health
Phone: 406-446-9941

Carbon County Reports Confirmed Measles Case – Healthcare Providers Urged to Increase Vigilance and Review Infection Prevention Protocols

Carbon County, MT – Carbon County Public Health (CCPH) is notifying healthcare providers and medical personnel that two confirmed cases of measles have been identified in Carbon County. CCPH is working in coordination with the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) to investigate the case, identify potential exposures, and implement appropriate public health measures to reduce further transmission.

Healthcare providers are encouraged to maintain a heightened level of awareness for patients presenting with symptoms consistent with measles, particularly those who are unvaccinated, have incomplete vaccination records, or may have had contact with an individual diagnosed with measles.

Information pertaining to public exposure locations will be updated and posted to the Carbon County Public Health web page.

Clinical Presentation and Symptoms

Measles (rubeola) is a highly contagious viral respiratory illness transmitted through the air when an infected person breathes, coughs, or sneezes. The virus can remain infectious in the air for up to two hours after an infected individual has left the area.

Symptoms typically develop 7–21 days following exposure and may include:

- High fever, potentially exceeding 104°F.
- Cough.
- Runny nose (coryza).
- Red, watery eyes (conjunctivitis).

Office: 406.446.9941 | Fax: 406.446.1274 | Email: PublicHealth@CarbonMT.gov

- A characteristic red, blotchy rash that typically begins on the face or hairline and spreads downward across the body.
- Small white spots inside the mouth (Koplik spots).

Individuals are generally considered contagious from four days before through four days after the onset of the rash.

Healthcare Provider Recommendations

Carbon County Public Health urges all healthcare facilities and providers to review and reinforce measles screening, isolation, and infection prevention procedures.

If measles is suspected:

1. **Screen and isolate immediately.** Place a mask on the patient, if tolerated, and immediately place the individual in an airborne infection isolation room (AIIR/negative-pressure room), if available. If one is not available, use a private room with the door closed while arranging appropriate precautions.
2. **Implement airborne precautions.** Healthcare personnel entering the room should use appropriate respiratory protection, including a fit-tested NIOSH-approved N95 respirator or higher-level protection.
3. **Notify public health immediately.** Report suspected cases to Carbon County Public Health at 406-446-9941. CCPH will coordinate with DPHHS regarding testing, case investigation, contact tracing, and appropriate control measures. If local public health cannot be reached, contact Montana DPHHS Communicable Disease Epidemiology at 406-444-0273.
4. **Coordinate diagnostic testing.** When possible, collect nasal swabs for measles testing **outside**, to reduce the risk of healthcare exposures. Current measles specimen collection and testing instructions are available here. Laboratory confirmation is important for suspected cases.
5. **Maintain isolation precautions.** Patients with measles should remain in airborne isolation for four days after rash onset. Individuals who are immunocompromised may require longer isolation.

Healthcare facilities should also evaluate potential exposures involving patients, visitors, and employees who may have shared airspace with an infectious individual, including spaces occupied by the individual for up to two hours after departure.

Vaccination Recommendations

Office: 406.446.9941 | Fax: 406.446.1274 | Email: PublicHealth@CarbonMT.gov

The measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine remains the most effective method of preventing measles infection and reducing the risk of serious complications.

Healthcare providers should review vaccination records and evidence of immunity among patients and healthcare personnel.

Current CDC recommendations include:

- **Children:** Two doses of MMR vaccine, with the first dose at 12–15 months and the second at 4–6 years of age.
- **Adults:** At least one documented dose of MMR vaccine or other acceptable evidence of immunity.
- **Healthcare personnel:** Two documented doses of MMR vaccine, separated by at least 28 days, or other acceptable evidence of immunity.
- **College students and international travelers:** Two documented doses of MMR vaccine, unless other acceptable evidence of immunity exists.
- **Infants 6–11 months:** An early MMR dose may be recommended for infants at increased risk of exposure. These children will still need two additional doses after their first birthday.

Acceptable evidence of immunity includes documented vaccination, laboratory evidence of immunity, laboratory-confirmed previous measles infection, or birth before 1957 (with additional considerations for healthcare personnel).

Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP)

Time is critical when evaluating individuals who may have been exposed to measles and do not have evidence of immunity. DPHHS has a measles exposure flowchart available online here.

- MMR vaccine may provide protection or reduce the severity of illness when administered within 72 hours of initial exposure.
- Immune globulin (IG) may be administered within six days of exposure for eligible individuals, particularly those at increased risk of severe disease, including infants, pregnant individuals, and severely immunocompromised individuals.

Healthcare providers should coordinate post-exposure recommendations with public health officials as soon as possible. MMR vaccine is a live vaccine and is contraindicated during pregnancy and in individuals with certain severe immunocompromising conditions.

CARBON COUNTY
MONTANA

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Office: 406.446.9941 | **Fax:** 406.446.1274 | **Email:** PublicHealth@CarbonMT.gov

Healthcare Personnel Exposure Management

Healthcare facilities should review employee immunity documentation and occupational exposure protocols.

CDC recommends that exposed healthcare personnel without presumptive evidence of immunity receive appropriate post-exposure prophylaxis and be excluded from work from the fifth day after their first exposure through the 21st day after their last exposure, regardless of receipt of post-exposure prophylaxis. Daily symptom monitoring is recommended for exposed personnel.

Healthcare personnel with presumptive evidence of immunity generally do not require post-exposure prophylaxis or work restrictions but should be monitored daily for symptoms from the fifth through the 21st day after their last exposure.

Coordination and Reporting

Carbon County Public Health is working closely with Montana DPHHS to monitor the situation, identify individuals who may have been exposed, and provide appropriate guidance.

Healthcare providers are strongly encouraged to contact CCPH promptly if they encounter a suspected case or identify a patient who may have been exposed and lacks evidence of immunity.

For questions, suspected cases, or exposure concerns, contact:

Carbon County Public Health Director Erin Cross RN
Cell: 406-426-8856
Office: 406-446-9941

Additional resources:
https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/cdepi/diseases/measles
https://www.cdc.gov/measles/