



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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Memorandum

To: DBHDS Licensed Providers

From: Jae Benz, Director, Office of Licensing, DBHDS

Cc: Heather Norton, Deputy Commissioner, Community Services
Dev Nair, Assistant Commissioner, Division of Provider Management

Date: May 15, 2026

Subject: Measles Outbreak Notification and Provider Reminders

Purpose:

The purpose of this memo is to notify DBHDS licensed providers of the recent measles outbreak identified by the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) in Buckingham County and to remind providers of the importance of infection prevention, monitoring, reporting, and coordination with healthcare professionals when individuals receiving services may be impacted. According to VDH, as of May 13, 2026, twelve outbreak-associated measles cases have been identified in the Buckingham County area, with evidence suggesting local transmission. VDH has indicated there are likely additional cases that have not yet been reported. Information is available on the [VDH Clinicians web page](#).

Provider Expectations:

Providers should remain alert for individuals receiving services or staff who may display symptoms consistent with measles (fever and generalized maculopapular rash) and seek appropriate medical attention, particularly individuals who:

- Reside in or have recently visited Buckingham County or the surrounding areas;
- Have recently traveled domestically to areas experiencing outbreaks or internationally; or
- May have been exposed to an individual with measles or measles-like symptoms.

Providers should review internal infection prevention and control procedures and ensure staff understand processes for:

- Identifying and responding to potentially contagious illnesses;
- Promptly seeking medical evaluation when symptoms are identified;
- Minimizing exposure to other individuals receiving services and staff;
- Coordinating with healthcare providers and local health departments as appropriate.

Please remember DBHDS licensing regulations require implementation of written infection control measures, including the use of universal precautions, pursuant to 12VAC35-105-720.C. There are additional requirements under 12VAC35-105-440.5 that new employees, contractors, volunteers, and students receive orientation related to infection control practices and measures within 15 business days, commensurate with their job responsibilities. Additionally, pursuant to 12VAC35-105-450, providers are required to maintain training policies addressing infection control, including flu epidemics, and ensure staff receive ongoing training and development necessary to support individuals receiving services and carry out job responsibilities. Documentation of employee participation in required training must be maintained and accessible to the department.

Vaccination Awareness:

VDH continues to emphasize that the MMR vaccine is the best protection against measles and encourages individuals to remain up to date on recommended vaccinations. Providers are encouraged to support individuals receiving services in accessing healthcare providers for questions regarding vaccination status, exposure concerns, or symptom monitoring as appropriate.

Reporting and Coordination:

If a provider becomes aware of a confirmed measles diagnosis or significant exposure involving individuals receiving services in a licensed program, providers should coordinate with the applicable healthcare professionals and local health department and ensure any required serious incident reporting obligations are completed timely. Providers are reminded that a measles diagnosis or exposure alone does not automatically require reporting to the Office of Licensing (OL) through the serious incident reporting process. Reporting to OL is only required if the situation meets the criteria for a Level II or Level III serious incident under DBHDS licensing regulations, such as circumstances resulting in an emergency room visit, inpatient hospitalization, or other reportable serious incident criteria. We encourage providers to review the full VDH communication and available public health guidance regarding measles symptoms, testing, vaccination recommendations, and infection prevention practices.