

MCG message

To: All Blue Cross Complete providers

Date: April 25, 2025

Subject: Stay alert for measles: Vaccine for Children program can help

Blue Cross Complete is urging all health care professionals to remain vigilant for potential cases of measles following an increase in reported cases in the United States since January 2025.

As of April 25, there have been nine confirmed cases of measles across five Michigan counties, according to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. These counties include Oakland, Kent, Macomb, Montcalm and Ingham. Four of these cases (44%) are outbreak-associated cases. An outbreak is defined as three or more related cases. As of April 17, 800 confirmed measles cases have been reported in 25 states.

Measles is a highly contagious viral illness that can lead to serious complications, particularly in young children, pregnant women and immunocompromised individuals. Measles symptoms appear seven to 14 days after contact with the virus. Symptoms typically begin with a high fever, cough, runny nose and conjunctivitis, followed by a characteristic rash that usually starts on the face and spreads downward.

The measles, mumps, and rubella, or MMR vaccine, is the best protection against the virus. In an ongoing effort to protect children from preventable diseases, Blue Cross Complete and the MDHHS is encouraging health care providers across the state to participate in the Vaccine for Children program. The VFC program, which is federally funded, provides vaccines at no cost to children who might not otherwise be vaccinated.

For more detailed information about the VFC program, go to mibluccrosscomplete.com, and click on the Clinical Resources and Guidelines tab.

If you have any questions, contact your Blue Cross Complete provider account executive or Provider Inquiry at 1-888-312-5713.

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