



## WALLA WALLA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH

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### NEWS RELEASE

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### Washington State Measles Update

*No cases in Walla Walla County, however we need to take precautions.*

WALLA WALLA, WA — January 29, 2019 —

On behalf of Walla Walla County Health Officer Dr. Larry Jecha, we want to provide you with background on the state of emergency Governor Jay Inslee declared in response to the measles outbreak in our state last week.

The measles outbreak is a growing problem, and we expect to it to continue spreading and go on for some time.

We have no suspected or confirmed measles cases in Walla Walla County, or the surrounding areas. However, there are confirmed measles in two Washington State counties, Clark and King, and one Oregon county, Multnomah. Measles is a highly contagious disease that can spread before people know they are sick and could impact any county in the state. There are unvaccinated people in many areas in our state, and within our community, and vulnerable populations are at risk.

Measles symptoms typically include:

- High fever (may spike to more than 104° F)
- Cough
- Runny nose
- Red, watery eyes
- Rash breaks out 3-5 days after symptoms begin

Walla Walla County Health Department is advising parents concerned about measles symptoms, or known exposure to measles, to **CALL BEFORE** going to the clinic they intend to visit including: doctor's offices, Urgent or Express Clinics, or the Emergency Department.

The best protection against measles is the [MMR vaccine](#), which protects against measles, mumps, and rubella viruses. There is no better time to ensure your family is protected and we encourage everyone make sure you are up to date on your vaccinations.

Up to date Dept. of Health Resources: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/IllnessandDisease/Measles>

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**Community Health: Always working for a safer and healthier Walla Walla County**