



Vaccines for Children Provider Notice

Pennsylvania Department of Health,
Bureau of Communicable Diseases, Division of Immunizations

May 2019

Vaccines for Children: Waste issues

The VFC program has noted increasing wastage of vaccine. In order to help reduce this waste, providers are reminded to plan monthly vaccine ordering based on their upcoming six weeks of scheduled/anticipated patient appointments. The VFC program appreciates your efforts in helping to reduce waste.

Measles Outbreak: Update from CDC

The following information is shared by the CDC's National Center for Immunization & Respiratory Diseases:

Measles is highly contagious and spreads through the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Healthcare professionals should be vigilant about measles

- Ensure all patients are up to date on MMR vaccine.
- Consider measles in patients presenting with febrile rash illness and clinically compatible measles symptoms (cough, runny nose, and conjunctivitis). Patients exposed to measles while traveling for Passover could begin to develop symptoms between late April through mid-May.
- Ask patients about recent travel internationally or to domestic venues frequented by international travelers, as well as a history of measles exposures in their communities.
- **Promptly isolate patients with suspected measles to avoid spread of disease and immediately report the suspected measles case to the health department.**
- Obtain specimens from patients with suspected measles for testing, including viral specimens for genotyping, which can help determine the source of the virus. Contact the local health department with questions about submitting specimens for testing.

Measles is so contagious that if one person has it, nine out of 10 people around them can become infected if they are not protected. The virus can cause serious health complications, such as pneumonia or encephalitis, and even death. CDC continues to encourage parents to get their children vaccinated on schedule with the MMR vaccine. People 6 months and older should be protected with the vaccine before leaving on international trips.

We appreciate your help spreading this message. For additional information and resources on measles please visit the CDC's measles website (<https://www.cdc.gov/measles/index.html>).

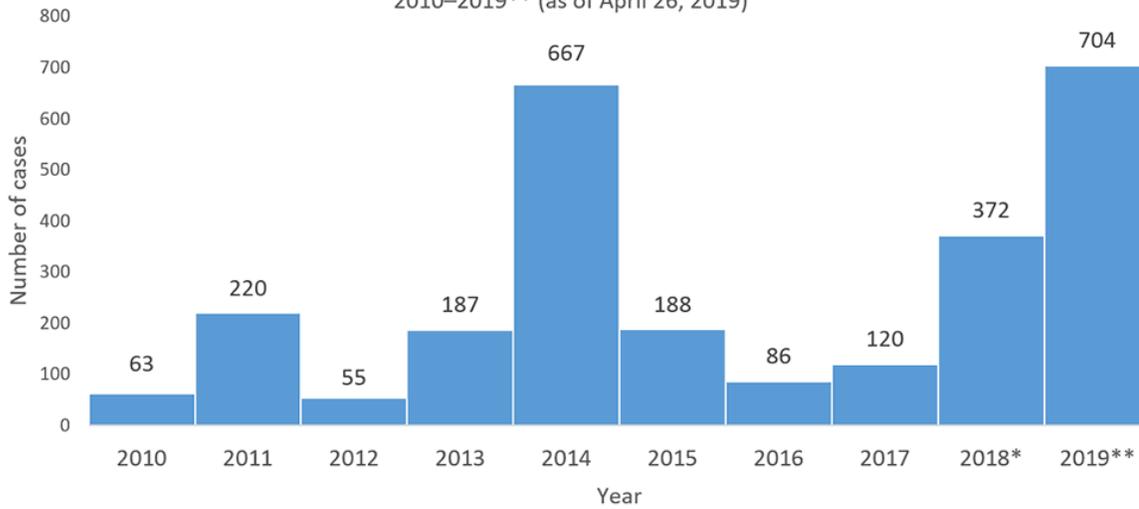
Measles Cases: States and Numbers

As we progress through 2019, the CDC continues to update data on measles cases. According to the CDC, "From January 1 to April 26, 2019, 704** individual cases of measles have been confirmed in 22 states. This is an increase of 78 cases from the previous week. This is the greatest number of cases reported in the U.S. since 1994 and since measles was declared eliminated in 2000.

The states that have reported cases to CDC are Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Texas, Tennessee, and Washington."

NUMBER OF MEASLES CASES REPORTED BY YEAR

2010–2019** (as of April 26, 2019)



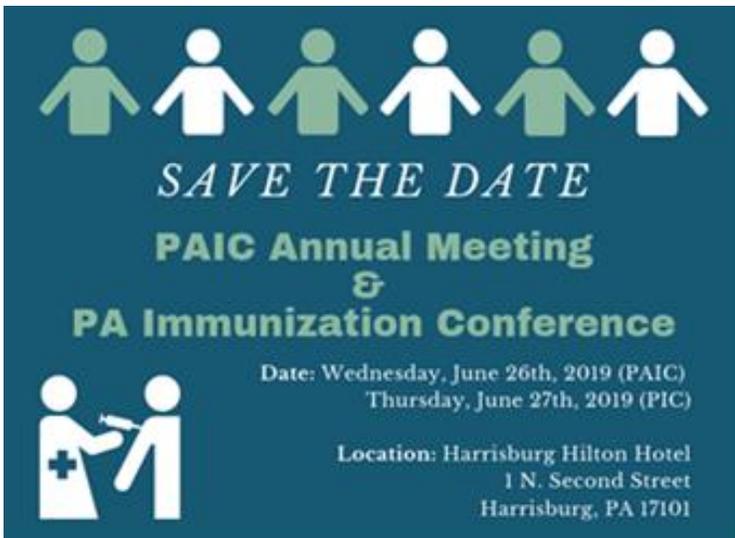
*Cases as of December 29, 2018. Case count is preliminary and subject to change.

Cases as of April 26, 2019. Case count is preliminary and subject to change. **Data are updated every Monday.

For more information regarding ongoing measles outbreaks, please visit the [CDC's Measles Cases and Outbreaks](#) page.

Save the Date: 2019 Pennsylvania Immunization Conference

The 2019 Pennsylvania Immunization Conference will be held in Harrisburg on Thursday, June 27, 2019 at the Harrisburg Hilton Hotel in Harrisburg, Pa.



Use 200 Market Street as the GPS-friendly address.

Please add the Vaccines For Children email to your address book: RA-pavfc@pa.gov