

September 2019

Outbreak in Pennsylvania: Hepatitis A

Pennsylvania declared a hepatitis A outbreak in May 2019. From January 2018 until early August of 2019, Pennsylvania has seen **376** outbreak related hepatitis A cases, with **82 percent of patients hospitalized and seven deaths**. The case count for 2019 is nearly nine times the number expected based on historical data.

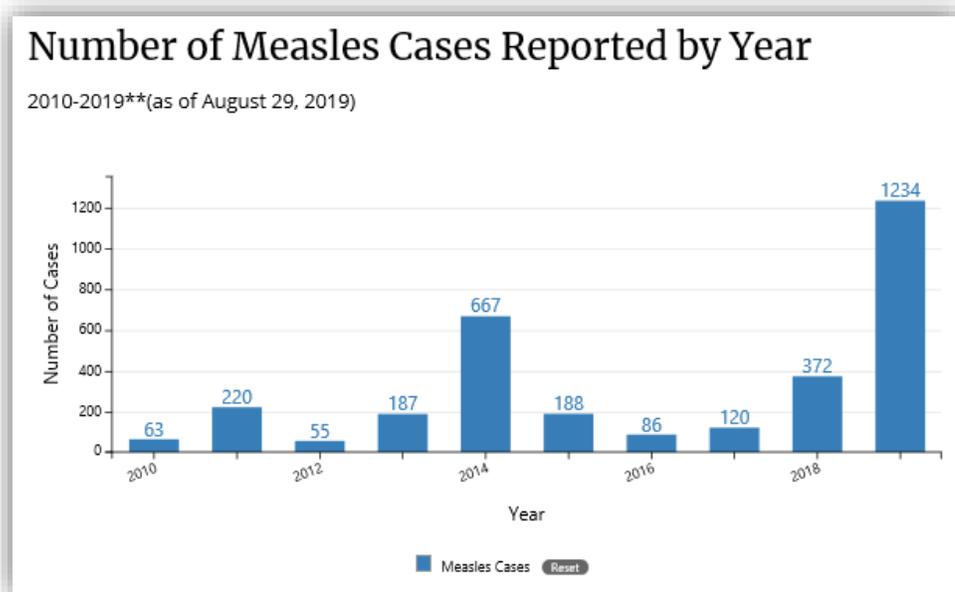
The Wolf administration has announced that state funds are available for vaccines and outreach efforts. Governor Wolf's statement, along with further information on this Hepatitis A outbreak can be found [here](#).

Additional reading material on Hepatitis A, along with resources for healthcare professionals can be found on the CDC [Hepatitis A page](#).

Outbreak in Pennsylvania: Measles

As we progress through 2019, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) continues to update data on measles cases. According to the CDC, "from January 1 to August 29, 2019, **1,234**** individual cases of measles have been confirmed in **31** states. **This is an increase of 19 cases from the previous week**. However, only one of these cases was recently ill. The rest were identified as past cases. This is the greatest number of cases reported in the U.S. since 1992."

The states that have reported cases to CDC are Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New Mexico, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, **Pennsylvania**, Texas, Tennessee, Virginia, and Washington.



****Cases as of August 29, 2019. Case count is preliminary and subject to change. Data are updated every Monday.**

Measles is so contagious that if one person has it, up to nine out of 10 people around them will also 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>).

VFC formulary changes: Provider requirements

Please be aware of the following requirement when sites have **formulary changes** involving Vaccines for Children vaccine:

- **Providers need to utilize their VFC product in current inventory, and then convert to new product in their formulary.**
- Orders for new formulary product will not be approved until existing formulary stock is exhausted.
- Division of Immunizations nurses **will not** transport VFC vaccines to accommodate provider formulary changes.

VFC vaccine and private vaccine: Expiration dates

Providers are asked to review the following important information regarding VFC vaccine expiration dates:

- Pennsylvania VFC distributes the Polio vaccine - Single-antigen IPV (IPOL) in 10-dose vials (MDVs). MDVs can be used until the expiration date printed on the vial unless the vaccine is contaminated or compromised in some way, or there is a Beyond Use Date noted in the package insert.
- In order to prevent waste and be accountable for federal vaccine funds, it is **required** that providers fully utilize open vials of the VFC-provided Polio vaccine unless contaminated, exposed to temperature excursions or expired.
- Providers who also carry private vaccine are expected to follow the PA VFC policy on VFC public-funded vaccines regardless of internal policies on privately purchased vaccine.

Reminder for VFC correspondence

Providers are required to include their Provider Identification Number (PIN) on **all** correspondence and documents sent to the Vaccines for Children program. The PIN assigned to your site is a unique identifier; please use your PIN for all communications with the VFC program. Please note this includes voicemails and emails.



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