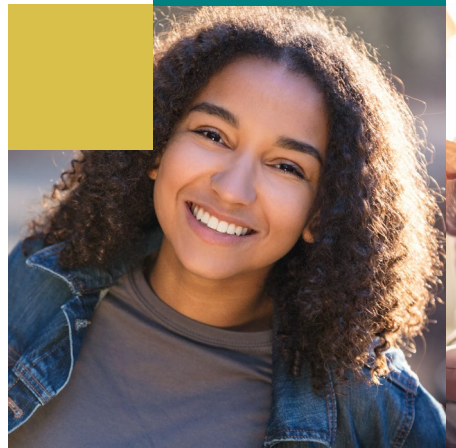


Infectious Disease Overview

School and Childcare Toolkit, Weekly Absenteeism Reporting, and Measles Update

November 3, 2026

Department of HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES | Division of Public Health





Agenda

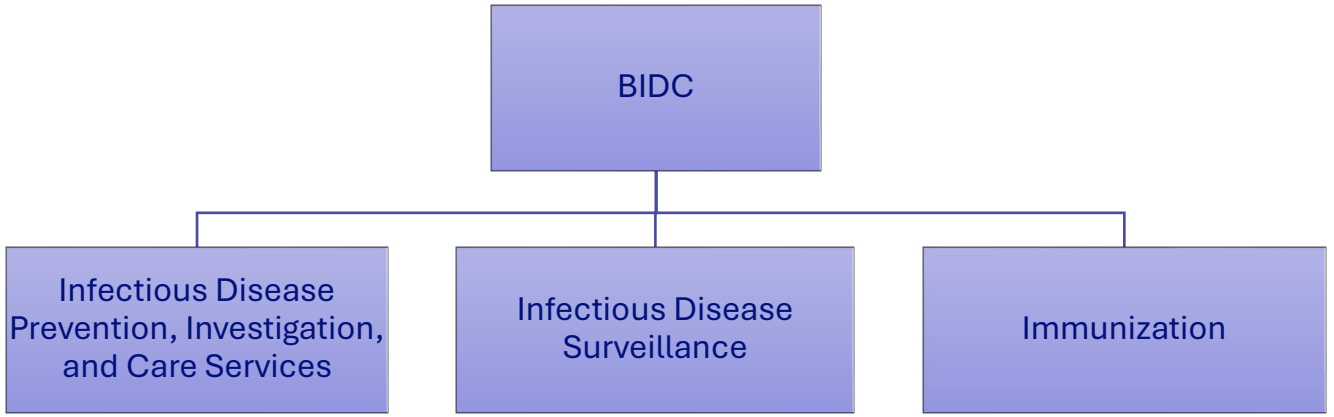
- About the Bureau of Infectious Disease Control
- School and Childcare Toolkit
- Absenteeism Reporting
- Measles Update

Bureau of Infectious Disease Control



About the Bureau of Infectious Disease Control (BIDC)

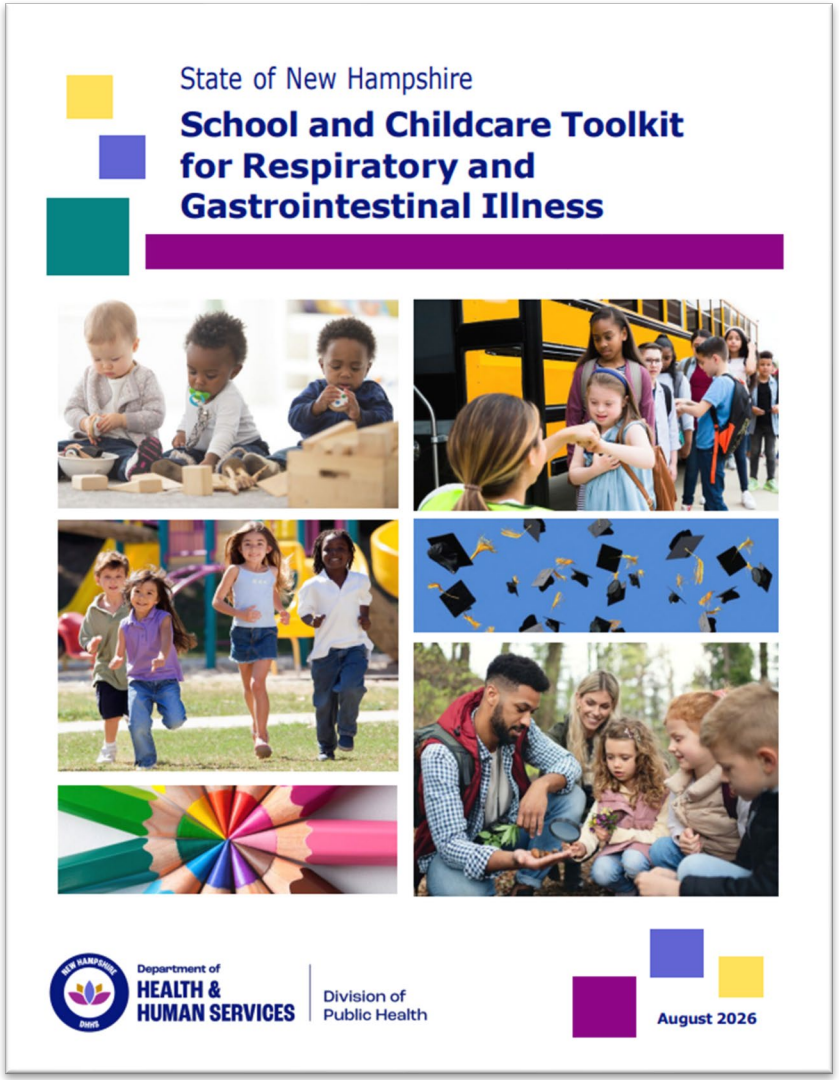
Identify, investigate, monitor, and prevent the occurrence of infectious diseases to protect and promote the health of residents and visitors to New Hampshire.



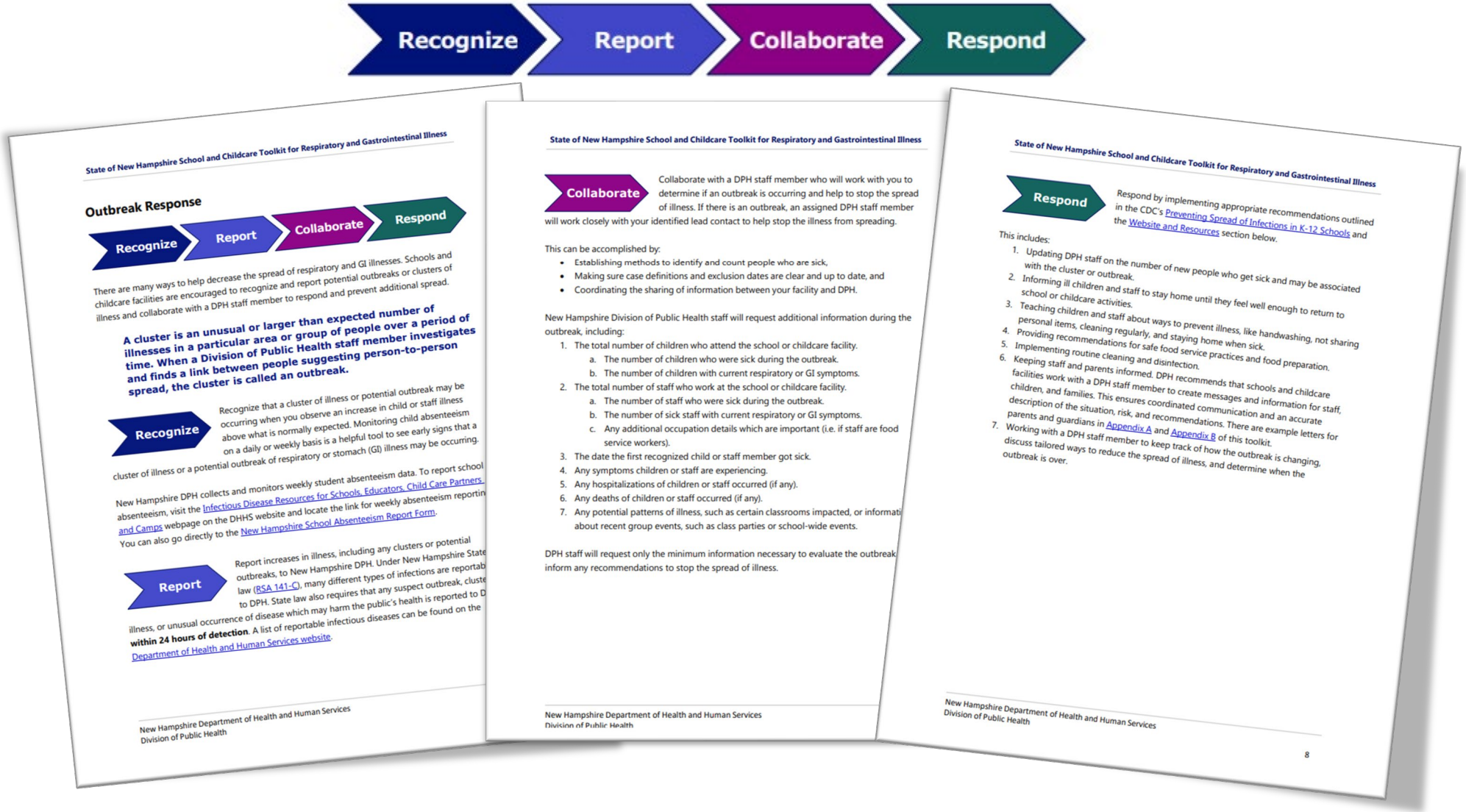
School and Childcare Toolkit



School and Childcare Toolkit for Respiratory and Gastrointestinal Illness



School and Childcare Toolkit for Respiratory and Gastrointestinal Illness

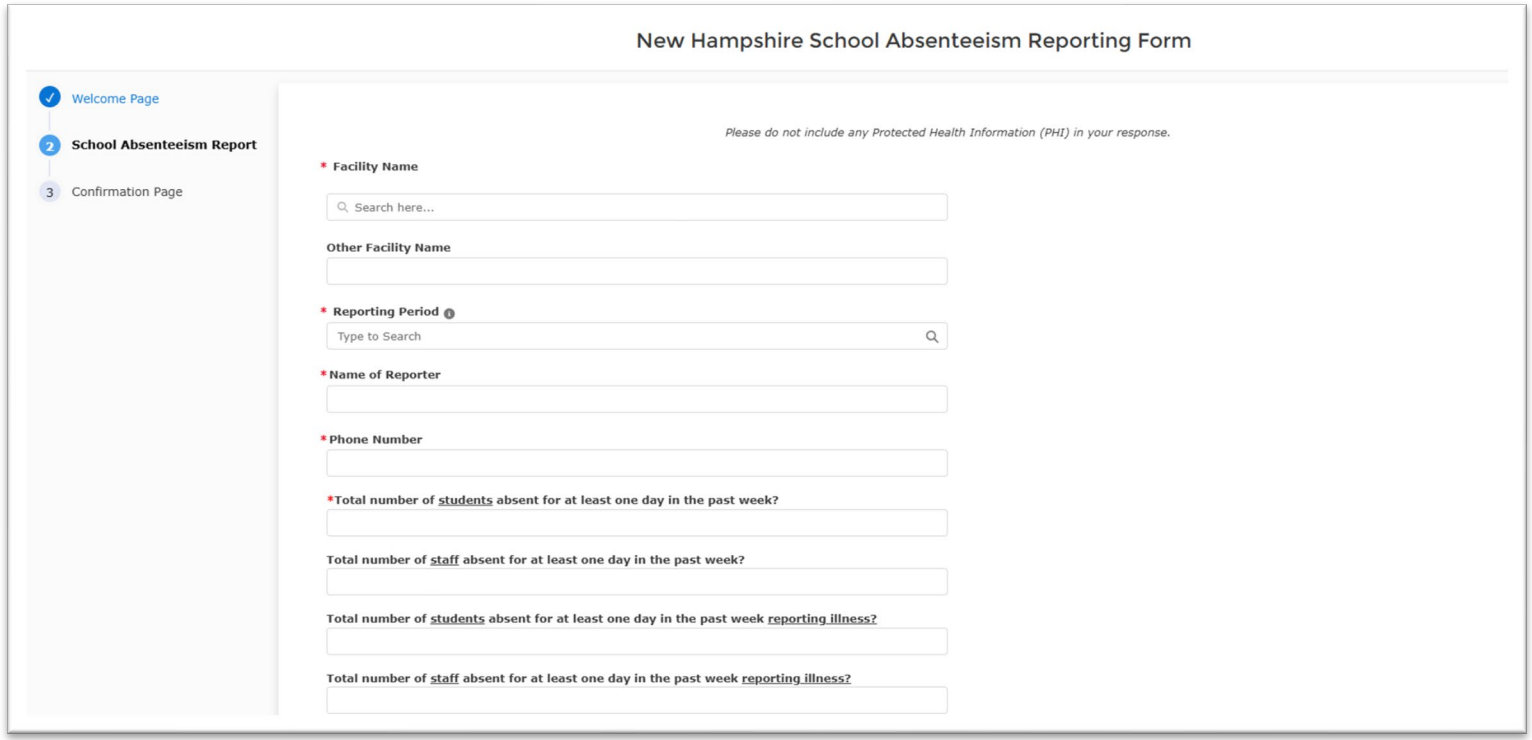


Absenteeism Reporting



Weekly Absenteeism Reporting for K-12 Schools

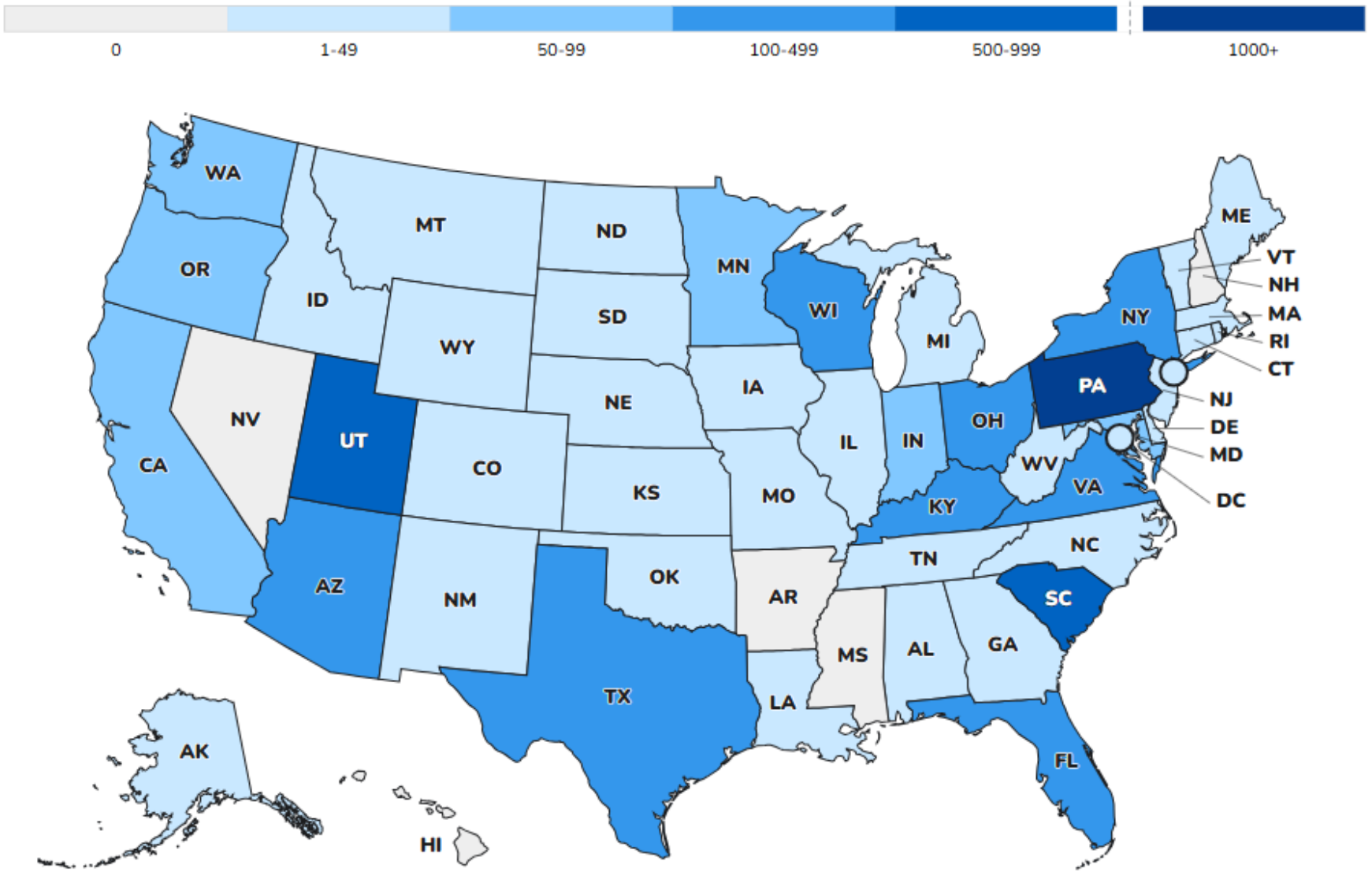
- Voluntary system that requests the total number of students and staff absent
- Absenteeism has been a part of respiratory disease monitoring since 2010 (H1N1)
- Valuable for early detection of diseases circulating within a community
- Reporting for the prior week opens each Friday morning at 8am and is due by 4pm Tuesdays



Measles Update

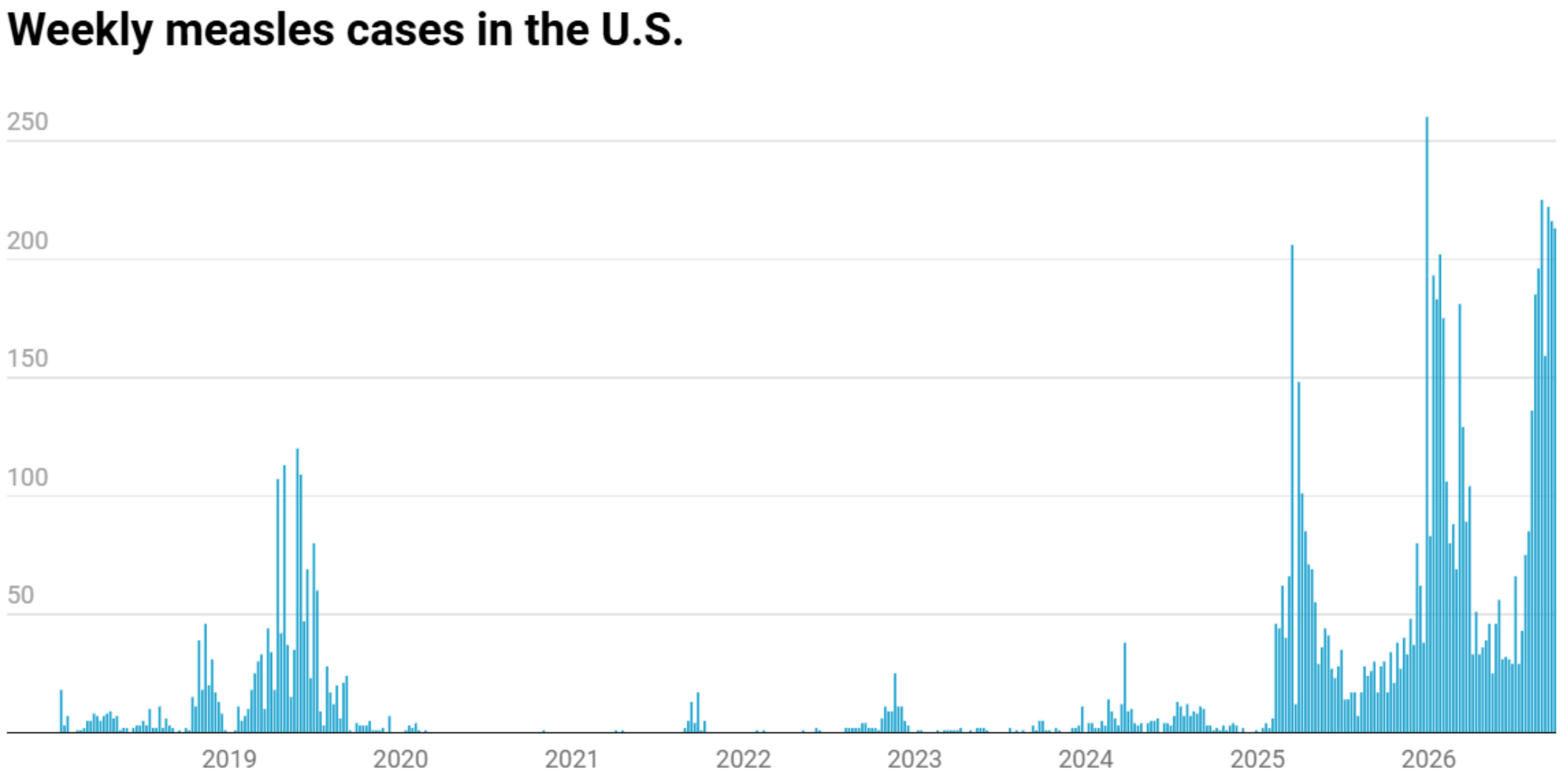


National Update



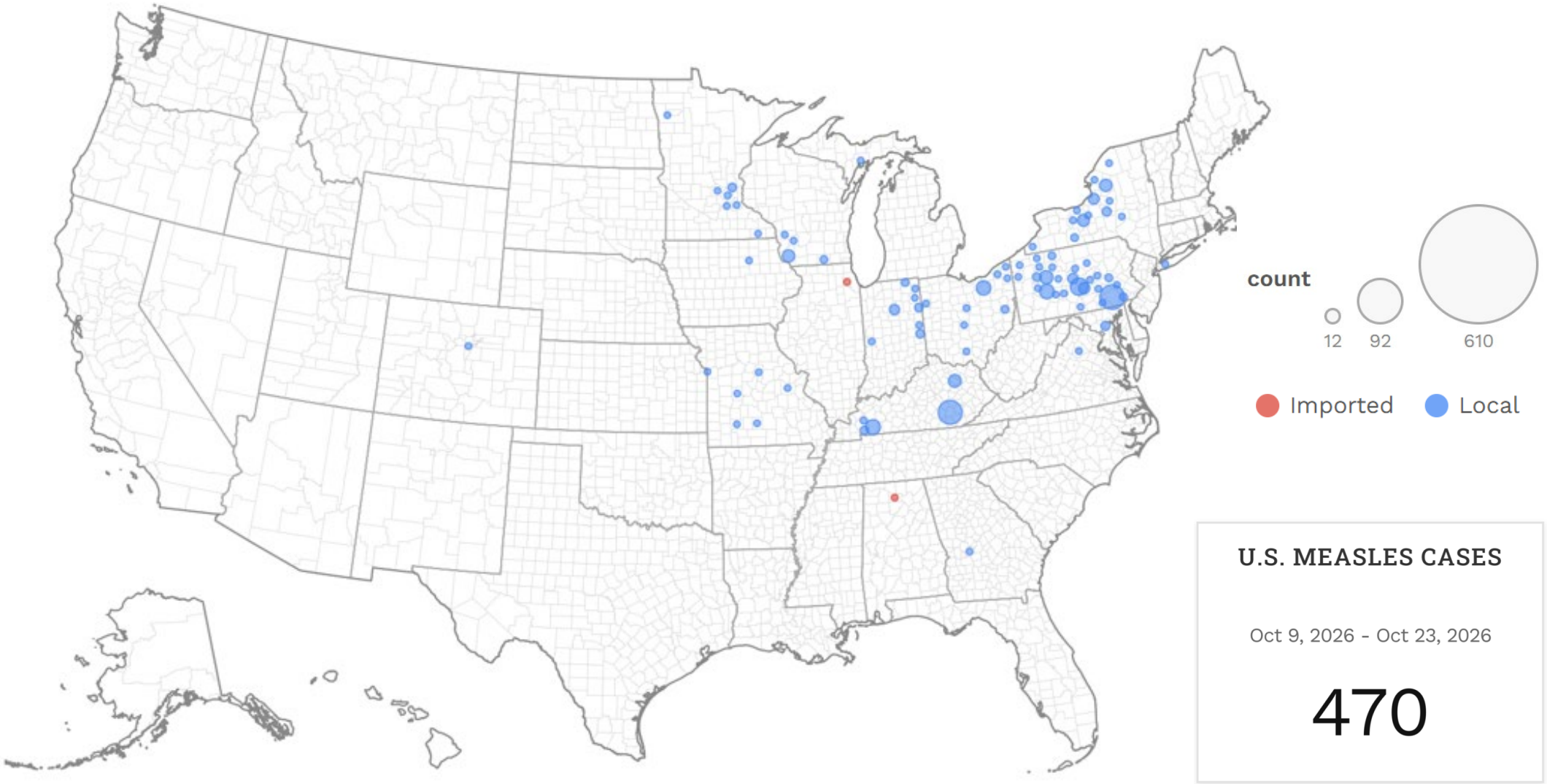
Reference:
https://www.cdc.gov/measles/data-research/index.html

Weekly Measles Infections in the United States, 2018-2026



Reference:
https://publichealth.jhu.edu/ivac/resources/us-measles-tracker

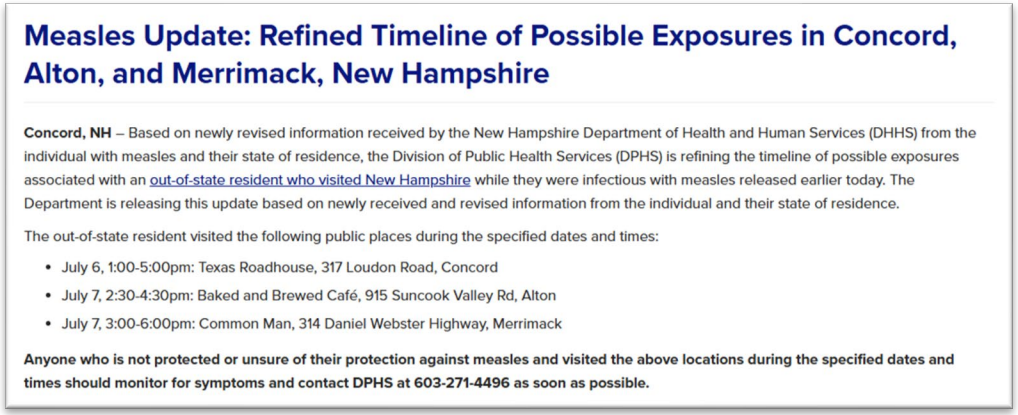
Measles in the United States from Oct 9th – Oct 23rd, 2026



Reference:
https://publichealth.jhu.edu/ivac/resources/us-measles-tracker

New Hampshire Data

- Last reported case of measles was in 2024 during an outbreak where individuals were exposed at multiple locations in NH (5 cases)
  - 2 NH residents, 2 individuals from another state, and 1 international traveler
- Prior to 2024, there were three cases over the span of 23 years (2019=1, 2011=1, 2006=1)
  - Majority of the cases were among individuals that traveled to or through NH



Measles Update: Refined Timeline of Possible Exposures in Concord, Alton, and Merrimack, New Hampshire

Concord, NH – Based on newly revised information received by the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) from the individual with measles and their state of residence, the Division of Public Health Services (DPHS) is refining the timeline of possible exposures associated with an out-of-state resident who visited New Hampshire while they were infectious with measles released earlier today. The Department is releasing this update based on newly received and revised information from the individual and their state of residence.

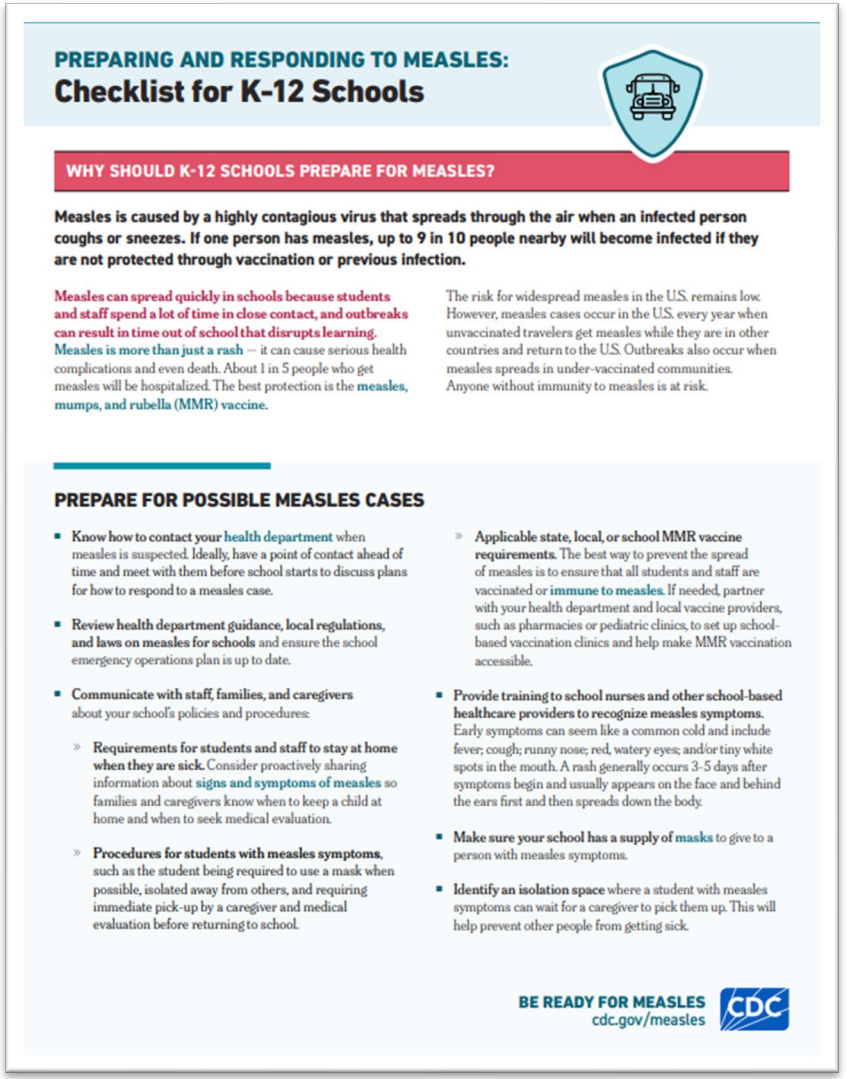
The out-of-state resident visited the following public places during the specified dates and times:

- July 6, 1:00-5:00pm: Texas Roadhouse, 317 Loudon Road, Concord
- July 7, 2:30-4:30pm: Baked and Brewed Café, 915 Suncook Valley Rd, Alton
- July 7, 3:00-6:00pm: Common Man, 314 Daniel Webster Highway, Merrimack

Anyone who is not protected or unsure of their protection against measles and visited the above locations during the specified dates and times should monitor for symptoms and contact DPHS at 603-271-4496 as soon as possible.

Staying Prepared

- Maintain documentation of measles immunity status for all students and staff
- Recognize measles symptoms
- Review policies and procedures on:
  - Ensuring students and staff stay home when sick
  - Managing students with measles symptoms
  - Identifying people who may have been exposed
  - Communicating to staff and families (in partnership with BIDC)
- Know how to contact BIDC at 271-4496 for any suspicion or report of measles



PREPARING AND RESPONDING TO MEASLES:
Checklist for K-12 Schools

WHY SHOULD K-12 SCHOOLS PREPARE FOR MEASLES?

Measles is caused by a highly contagious virus that spreads through the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes. If one person has measles, up to 9 in 10 people nearby will become infected if they are not protected through vaccination or previous infection.

Measles can spread quickly in schools because students and staff spend a lot of time in close contact, and outbreaks can result in time out of school that disrupts learning. **Measles is more than just a rash** — it can cause serious health complications and even death. About 1 in 5 people who get measles will be hospitalized. The best protection is the **measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine.**

The risk for widespread measles in the U.S. remains low. However, measles cases occur in the U.S. every year when unvaccinated travelers get measles while they are in other countries and return to the U.S. Outbreaks also occur when measles spreads in under-vaccinated communities. Anyone without immunity to measles is at risk.

PREPARE FOR POSSIBLE MEASLES CASES

- **Know how to contact your health department** when measles is suspected. Ideally, have a point of contact ahead of time and meet with them before school starts to discuss plans for how to respond to a measles case.
- **Review health department guidance, local regulations, and laws on measles for schools** and ensure the school emergency operations plan is up to date.
- **Communicate with staff, families, and caregivers** about your school's policies and procedures:
  - **Requirements for students and staff to stay at home when they are sick.** Consider proactively sharing information about **signs and symptoms of measles** so families and caregivers know when to keep a child at home and when to seek medical evaluation.
  - **Procedures for students with measles symptoms,** such as the student being required to use a mask when possible, isolated away from others, and requiring immediate pick-up by a caregiver and medical evaluation before returning to school.
  - **Applicable state, local, or school MMR vaccine requirements.** The best way to prevent the spread of measles is to ensure that all students and staff are vaccinated or **immune to measles.** If needed, partner with your health department and local vaccine providers, such as pharmacies or pediatric clinics, to set up school-based vaccination clinics and help make MMR vaccination accessible.
- **Provide training to school nurses and other school-based healthcare providers to recognize measles symptoms.** Early symptoms can seem like a common cold and include fever; cough; runny nose; red, watery eyes; and/or tiny white spots in the mouth. A rash generally occurs 3-5 days after symptoms begin and usually appears on the face and behind the ears first and then spreads down the body.
- **Make sure your school has a supply of masks** to give to a person with measles symptoms.
- **Identify an isolation space** where a student with measles symptoms can wait for a caregiver to pick them up. This will help prevent other people from getting sick.

BE READY FOR MEASLES
cdc.gov/measles



Thank you.

Megan Heddy, MSN, RN
Chief, Bureau of Infectious Disease Control
NHBIDC@dhhs.nh.gov
603-271-4496

Department of HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES | Division of Public Health

