

Date: October 1, 2026

Contact: Fergus County Health Department at 406-535-7433.

Press Release

Measles Exposures in Fergus County

The Fergus County Health Department (FCHD) reports a confirmed case of measles that had potential exposures in the county from September 24 through September 30, 2026.

FCHD is currently aware of these public measles exposure sites:

Amtrak Train Station (Malta, MT): Amtrak Train #7 headed westbound from Chicago Union Station, arriving on Thursday, September 24, 2026 at 2:20 pm in Malta.

Evergreen Wood Products (Moore, MT): Friday, September 25, 2026

Measles is a very contagious disease that spreads mainly through the air. When an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks, tiny droplets containing the virus are released and can remain in the air for up to two hours. This means someone can get measles even without direct contact with the infected person. The virus can also spread by touching contaminated surfaces and then touching the mouth, eyes, or nose. Measles usually starts with a fever, cough, runny nose, and red eyes, along with small white spots inside the cheeks. About 7 to 14 days after exposure, a red rash appears, beginning on the face and then spreading to the rest of the body.

If you have symptoms of measles, **call your healthcare provider right away**. Your provider will tell you how to get care safely without exposing others. Please stay at home and do not have any guests or visitors until you are no longer contagious, or measles is ruled out.

People immune through vaccination, lab-confirmed immunity or prior infection, or those born before 1957 are generally not considered at risk for infection. Unvaccinated individuals have about a 90% chance of infection if exposed.

The measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine is the best protection; two doses are about **97% effective**. There have been no changes made to existing MMR vaccine recommendations in the US, and two doses have been recommended for children since 1989. If you are in need of an MMR vaccine, contact your healthcare provider, or by calling FCHD at 406-535-7433.

Any additional measles information can be found on the on the CDC website <https://www.cdc.gov/measles/data-research/index.html> or the FCHD website: <https://fergusmt.gov/departments/health-dept>