

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media availability: Virtual interviews will be available on Friday, Jan. 16, 2026, from 1:00-2:00 pm. Please contact Courtney Kreuzwiesner to schedule.

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Maricopa County Warns of Possible Measles Exposures at Hale Theatre Arizona

*Exposures linked to non-county resident;
people should watch for symptoms and seek care if ill*

PHOENIX (January 16, 2026)— The Maricopa County Department of Public Health has confirmed a measles exposure involving a non-county resident.

Exposure occurred at the following location, dates, and times:

- Hale Theatre Arizona, 50 W. Page Ave., Gilbert, AZ 85233
 - January 5th, 6th, and 7th from 6:30 p.m.-11:30 p.m.
 - January 8th and 9th from 3:00 p.m.-11:30 p.m.
- People should watch for symptoms through January 30, 2026

MCDPH is working closely with the venue to ensure people are aware and able to take appropriate protective measures.

“While people who are up to date on their measles vaccine are much less likely to become ill, anyone who was at this location during the exposure period should still be aware and monitor for symptoms,” said Nick Staab, Chief Medical Officer for MCDPH. “Measles is highly contagious, and early recognition is critical to preventing further spread.”

Two doses of the MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) vaccine are 97% effective and recommended for all children. Unimmunized adults are recommended to receive at least one dose of MMR vaccine. Individuals born before 1957 or who had measles as a child are generally considered immune.

Anyone who may have been exposed should watch for symptoms, which appear typically seven to 12 days after exposure but may take up to 21 days. Symptoms include:

- Fever, which can spike to 104 °F or higher

- Red, watery eyes
- Cough
- Runny nose
- A rash that is red, raised, and blotchy. The rash begins after other symptoms, usually on the face at the hairline, and moves down the body. The rash may last five to six days.

Individuals who develop symptoms are encouraged to seek medical care and testing. They should call the provider ahead to let them know about symptoms and potential exposure before going in. The provider or facility will provide instructions on how to be seen without exposing others in the waiting area.

MCDPH is encouraging healthcare providers to be alert for unvaccinated patients with fever and rash, especially if they have a known exposure. Healthcare providers are required to report suspect cases of measles to their local health department.

Measles Facts

- Vaccination is the most effective way to avoid measles infection and serious outcomes.
 - Unvaccinated people have a 90% chance of becoming infected if exposed.
 - Vitamin A does not prevent measles.
 - In the rare case where a vaccinated person gets infected with measles, their illness will be less severe than if they were unvaccinated.
- There is no treatment for measles, and it can have serious outcomes.
 - An individual with measles can get supportive care, but there are no treatments to relieve symptoms or shorten duration of infection.
 - While less common, measles can result in death.
- Measles is highly contagious.
 - People who are infected can spread measles to others before symptoms develop, while they still feel normal.
- Residents can check their immunization records to see if they are up to date on MMR and other vaccines.
 - Residents can visit [myIR](#) via the Arizona Department of Health Services.
 - Assistance is also available through the MCDPH CARES Team at (602) 506-6767 Mon.-Fri from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 - If you do not have the recommended doses of MMR vaccine or are unsure if you do, talk with your healthcare provider about next steps.

For more information on measles, visit [Maricopa.gov/measles](https://www.maricopa.gov/measles).

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