

U.S. measles outbreak spreads with 60 new cases across 26 states



Atlanta, May 28 (RHC)-- The United States has recorded 60 new measles cases, taking confirmed cases for the year to 940, the worst outbreak since 1994 and since measles was declared eliminated in 2000, federal health officials say.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported a 6.8% increase in the number of measles cases in the week ending May 24th in an outbreak that has now reached 26 states. The agency has been providing weekly updates on the spread of the disease.

Experts warn that the outbreak is not over as the number of cases edges closer to the 1994 total of 958. That was the highest number since 1992, when the CDC recorded 2,126 cases.

Public health officials have blamed the measles resurgence on the spread of misinformation about vaccines, as a vocal fringe of parents oppose vaccines, believing, contrary to scientific studies, that ingredients in them can cause autism.

Although the virus was eliminated from the United States in 2000, meaning the disease was no longer a constant presence, outbreaks still happen through travelers coming from countries where measles is still common, according to the Atlanta-based U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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