



PPS-PIDSP ADVISORY ON THE INCREASING CASES OF MEASLES IN THE COUNTRY



February 18, 2025

In light of the significant rise in measles cases across the country since the beginning of 2025, the Philippine Pediatric Society (PPS) and the Pediatric Infectious Disease Society of the Philippines (PIDSP) call on all healthcare providers and the public to increase all efforts to **mitigate the spread of measles by enhancing disease recognition, reinforcing infection control measures, increasing vaccination coverage rates, and participating in intensified immunization and disease surveillance programs of the Department of Health.**

Based on the Philippines Integrated Disease Surveillance Report MW No. 5, there were **181 cases reported** in the last three to four weeks, an **87% increase** from 97 cases reported two weeks ago. There was also a **32% increase** in measles cases at this time of the year compared to same period (Jan. 1 to Feb. 1) last year. In view of the situation, the PPS and PIDSP enjoin all eligible individuals, especially guardians of children less than 5 years of age, to complete measles immunization of those unvaccinated or partially vaccinated.

Measles is a highly contagious disease that spreads through coughing, sneezing, and breathing. It infects the respiratory tract and can lead to serious complications like pneumonia, blindness, encephalitis, and even death. Nonetheless, measles is a vaccine-preventable disease and the PPS and PIDSP would like to reiterate that measles-containing vaccines (MCV) are highly efficacious and remain the most effective way to prevent infection. The DOH National Immunization Program provides MCV doses at 9 months and 12 months. For children whose vaccinations have been delayed or those who are incompletely vaccinated, catch-up immunization is highly encouraged.

The PPS and PIDSP re-emphasize the need for an efficient public health campaign for measles prevention to raise awareness about the importance of getting timely and complete vaccination. We highly encourage healthcare providers to proactively discuss measles vaccination with patients at every visit. It is also mandatory for healthcare workers to report measles cases to their local health authorities as this is a Notifiable Disease. We believe that a strong collaborative effort by local government leaders, healthcare providers, and the public is essential for increasing vaccination rates and achieving substantial protection against this dreaded disease.

Don't let measles spread... vaccinate your children and all those eligible!
It is our best shot!

References:

1. Department of Health, Epidemiology Bureau Philippine Integrated Disease Surveillance Report, Morbidity Week no. 5, February 2025.
2. PPS-PIDSP Joint Position Statement on Measles in The Community: Guidance For Healthcare Providers, 27 March 2024.