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**NEWS
RELEASE**

05/ 15/ 2025

Has Been Rescheduled Due To High Winds City Hosts Free Drive-Thru Measles Vaccine Event at the El Paso Zoo

Measles Prevention Campaign Aims to Reduce Community Spread

EL PASO, Texas—The City of El Paso Department of Public Health (DPH), in partnership with the El Paso Fire Department, are hosting a free drive-thru measles vaccine event from **2 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 20**, at the El Paso Zoo, 4001 E. Paisano. *(Previously schedule for Monday, May 19th)*

This **FREE** event is open to all community members who need a measles (MMR) vaccine. **No appointment or insurance is required.**

EVENT DETAILS: WHAT TO BRING

- **Shot Record (if available):** Know your vaccination status.

Measles is a highly contagious virus that can spread rapidly, particularly among unvaccinated individuals. The measles vaccine (MMR) is highly effective, with two doses providing approximately 97% protection. Although rare, vaccinated individuals may still contract the virus, but they are far less likely to experience severe symptoms or transmit it to others.

"We need the community to ensure they are up-to-date with their measles or MMR vaccine," said Dr. Hector Ocaranza, City-County Health Authority. "Vaccinating ourselves and our children not only protects our families but also helps prevent the spread of the disease within our community."

Public health officials recommend the MMR vaccine to prevent further spread of the disease. Adults under 68 years of age who do not have a record of receiving the vaccine are strongly encouraged to get vaccinated. However, pregnant women and individuals with compromised immune systems should not receive the vaccine.

Measles is a highly contagious respiratory virus that spreads through coughing and sneezing. The virus can linger in the air for up to two hours after an infected person has left the area. Common symptoms include:

- Fever, cough, runny nose, and red eyes.
- Rash that begins on the face and spreads downward.
- Infected individuals are contagious from four days before to four days after the rash appears (Day 0 is the day the rash appears).

Those at increased risk of contracting measles include:

- Unvaccinated individuals.
- Recent travelers to areas with ongoing measles outbreaks.
- Immunocompromised individuals, including pregnant women, people with HIV, and those undergoing chemotherapy or other immunosuppressive treatments.

For additional information on measles symptoms, vaccination, and potential exposure, the City of El Paso has activated a Measles Hotline at (915) 212-HELP (4357). Residents can also call 2-1-1 or visit EPHealth.com under the [Vaccination & Immunizations tab](#).

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Promoting **Transparent & Consistent Communication**
Among All Members of the Community

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