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PRESS RELEASE

MoHW Reports Nineteen Measles Cases in Belize in 2026

Belmopan, November 2, 2026.

The Ministry of Health and Wellness informs the public that for the year 2026 to date, nineteen (19) cases of measles have been identified. The last four cases were detected in October in the Cayo District. All cases have recovered to date. Contact tracing, ring vaccination, and community outreach are ongoing.

The Ministry of Health and Wellness reminds the public that measles is a highly contagious, serious viral illness with possible long-term complications. Symptoms usually start between 7 and 21 days after contact with an infected person. The illness begins with high fever, runny nose, red eyes, and a rash that starts at the hairline, spreads down to the chest, back, and limbs, and then to the rest of the body. Persons are contagious 4 days before and 4 days after the rash appears.

Measles is preventable through the Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccination. The MMR vaccine is safe and highly effective, with two doses providing lifetime immunity.

The Ministry of Health and Wellness urges all unvaccinated persons to visit the nearest health facility to get vaccinated.

If you have a fever and rash or suspect measles, please visit your nearest health facility for medical attention or call the Ministry of Health hotline at 0-800-MOH-CARE (0-800-664-2273).

The Ministry urges the population to take the necessary steps to protect themselves, their families, and their communities from measles through vaccination and early medical care.

Ends