



CDC Issues Alert for Measles Outbreak Spreading Across US

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NABP WEEKLY

*Educational, Regulatory,
and Association News*



CDC Issues Alert on Growing US Measles Outbreak

The United States measles outbreak continues to spread, with 301 cases confirmed as of March 13, 2025, in [Texas](#) and [New Mexico](#), according to [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#). [Measles cases](#) have also appeared in Alaska, California, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington.

CDC is currently working with health authorities to monitor the situation and reminds health care professionals to encourage patients to receive the measles-mumps-rubella vaccine. The US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released a statement noting [CDC's recommendation](#) to allow physicians to administer vitamin A to patients with mild, moderate, and severe infections.

[Learn More About the Measles Outbreak](#)

New PSM Report Uncovers Over 100 Illegal Shipments of Weight Loss Drugs Entering US

Even though US laws prohibit shipments of diabetes and obesity injections from foreign sources crossing the border, the [Partnership for Safe Medicines \(PSM\)](#) has uncovered over 100 shipments of these drugs entering the US. According to PSM's report, 239 shipments of semaglutide and tirzepatide came from foreign sources that did not register their facilities. Of these, Food and Drug Administration (FDA) stopped 44 shipments, allowing 195 to enter the US. PSM outlines several recommendations for FDA and state boards of pharmacy to curb illegal shipments of drugs, such as encouraging FDA and state boards of pharmacy to prioritize the inspection of compounders that are importing bulk semaglutide and tirzepatide from unregistered facilities.

[Read PSM's Report](#)

Deteriorating Community Pharmacy Working Conditions Named a Top Patient Safety Concern for 2025

Deteriorating working conditions in community pharmacies ranked among [ECRI's and the Institute for Safe Medication Practices' \(ISMP's\) Top 10 Patient Safety Concerns 2025](#). Inadequate staffing and disrespectful behavior from patients, caregivers, health care practitioners, and leaders have impacted pharmacists' ability to safely perform patient care and clinical duties. The organizations noted multiple ways to improve the culture, leadership and governance, workforce safety and wellness, patient and family engagement, and learning system priorities to help reduce medication errors in the workplace and remove unnecessary burdens from pharmacists.

[Download ECRI's and ISMP's Report](#)

Fentanyl and Norfentanyl Added to Federal Drug Testing Program

On January 16, 2025, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and HHS issued mandatory guidelines for federal workplace drug testing programs. The guidelines updated the panels for urine and oral fluid and revised "required nomenclature for laboratory and Medical Review Officer Reports" to include fentanyl and norfentanyl, while also removing methylenedioxymethamphetamine and methylenedioxymethamphetamine. These guidelines are expected to go into effect on July 7, 2025.

[Read the Mandatory Guidelines](#)

New LAPP Fact Sheet Discusses Recent Increase of BTMPS in Illicit Drug Supplies

The Legislative Analysis and Public Policy Association (LAPPA) has published a fact sheet after the industrial chemical bis (2,2,6,6-tetramethyl-4-piperidyl) sebacate (BTMPS) was discovered in multiple illicit opioid supplies last year. **BTMPS** is a chemical used to protect plastics from ultraviolet rays. Between June and October 2024, researchers found that in 284 drug products marketed as fentanyl and tested in Los Angeles, CA, and Philadelphia, PA, 98 (or 35%) contained BTMPS. Of the 98 drug samples, 62 (or 63%) of those samples had more BTMPS than fentanyl by mass. Although primarily found in products containing fentanyl, BTMPS has also been detected in other synthetic opioids and stimulants. Research is limited on the effect of BTMPS and the reason why it is being found across the US. Currently, no test for identifying BTMPS exists; however, community-based drug testing programs can detect the chemical using portable spectrometers.

NABP encourages consumers to only buy from verified, legitimate websites that comply with NABP patient safety and pharmacy practice standards or applicable laws. Verify before you buy using the Safe Site Search Tool at [safe.pharmacy](#).

[View LAPP's Fact Sheet](#)

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New HHS Policy: No Public Comments on Some Policies

HHS has issued a new policy that repealed the Public Participation in Rule Making (Richardson Waiver) and is now aligning its rule-making procedures to follow the Administrative Procedure Act. According to the Administrative Procedure Act, "matters relating to agency management

or personnel or to public property, loans, grants, benefits, or contracts,' are exempt from the notice and comment procedures of 5 U.S.C. 553, except as otherwise required by law."

[Learn More About the New HHS Policy >](#)

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