



Measles cases are on the rise in the United States. Measles is a highly contagious viral illness that can cause serious medical complications. The Centers for Disease Control evaluated cases reported by states from January 1 through May 23, 2014. A total of 288 confirmed measles cases have been reported to CDC, surpassing the highest reported yearly total of measles cases since elimination (220 cases reported in 2011). Fifteen outbreaks accounted for 79% of cases reported, including the largest outbreak reported in the United States since elimination (138 cases and ongoing). **The large number of cases this year emphasizes the need for health-care providers to have a heightened awareness of the potential for measles in their communities and the importance of vaccination to prevent measles.** Six cases of measles in children and adults have been reported in Manhattan since February 5, 2014.

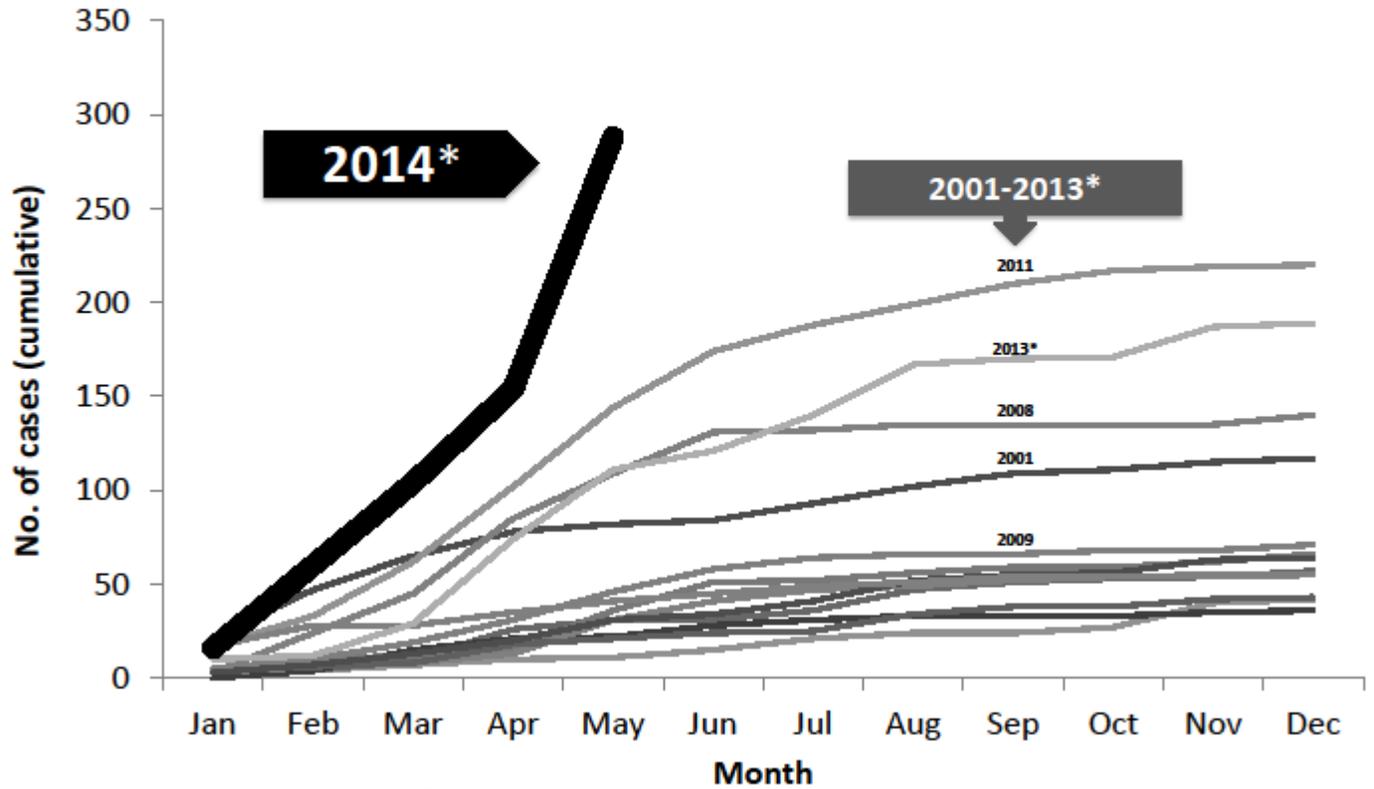
In the United States, routine MMR vaccination is recommended for all children, with the first dose given at age 12–15 months, and a second dose at age 4–6 years. Catch-up vaccination is recommended for children and adolescents who have not received 2 appropriately spaced doses. Unless they have other evidence of immunity, adults should receive at least 1 dose of MMR vaccine, and 2 appropriately spaced doses of MMR vaccine are recommended for health-care personnel, college students, and international travelers. Parents should understand that a measles vaccine (MMR) is the best way to protect a child from measles, and is especially important if there is a measles outbreak in our area or if you are traveling to an area with high rates of measles.

Suspected cases of measles should be reported immediately to the Health Department.

See the graph on next page for a visual depiction of the measles cases in the last fourteen years.

Measles, U.S., 2001-2014*

Cumulative Number by Month of Rash Onset



*Preliminary data as of May 23, 2014

Source: National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS) and direct report to CDC