

# Measles cases growing in Kentucky

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KENTUCKY HEALTH NEWS

LOUISVILLE – Another case of measles has been confirmed in Kentucky, bringing the state’s total number of cases this year to 13.

The most recent case is in Jefferson County in a child “who recently traveled internationally to an area with ongoing measles transmissions,” according to Louisville’s health department.

“It’s unknown if the child was vaccinated against measles, said Connie Mendel, Louisville’s chief health strategist,” Kentucky Lantern reports. Eleven of the state’s other 12 cases are in people unvaccinated against measles, and the 12th is in a person who got only one of the recommended two-dose vaccine.

Kentucky’s 13 cases add to the largest outbreak of measles in the U.S. since measles was declared eliminated in the country in 2000. Nationally, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports 1,309 confirmed cases in 2025.

Dr. Nicholas Van Sickels, an infectious disease specialist with UK HealthCare, said vaccination is the best way to protect yourself and others from measles.

“If you look at measles

outbreaks in general, overwhelmingly, you see that people who are unvaccinated are disproportionately affected because it is just so, so, so contagious,” he said. “On average, if you have an unvaccinated population, one person can infect 12 to 18 more, and then it just expands.”

Measles is a highly contagious respiratory virus that can cause serious health complications, especially in young children. It spreads through the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes and can survive for up to two hours after an infected person leaves an area.

Symptoms of measles include fever, cough, congestion, runny nose and red, watery eyes. Several days after the start of symptoms, a rash occurs. It usually starts on the head and spreads down the body.

The two-dose MMR vaccine is recommended for children at 12 to 15 months old, with a second dose between ages 4 and 6. Two doses of the MMR vaccine are 97% effective against measles, and one dose is estimated to be about 93% effective.

Further, Van Sickels said, the vaccine offers some protection

to people who get measles even though they’ve been vaccinated, noting that they will likely have a milder illness and are less likely to spread the disease to other people, including those who can’t get vaccinated.

### HERD IMMUNITY

People who can’t get vaccinated against the measles depend on those who can get vaccinated to protect them from the disease through herd immunity.

“If you have a ton of herd immunity, if you have over 95% of the population protected through vaccination, measles has a tough time taking hold,” Van Sickels said. “Because even if a couple of people get infected, they don’t spread it very well, and the people they try to spread it to are blocking them in most cases because of vaccination.”

This is important, he said, because while most people do recover from measles, “a significant number of people who get complications, such as ear infections, pneumonia, require hospitalization.” And though rare, he said some will die from it, get encephalitis or will have neurologic problems years later.

“And so these are really rare events, but to me, why would

you take that chance when those rare events are counterbalanced by a very effective and safe vaccine that has an excellent safety profile?” he said.

Among those who cannot get vaccinated are pregnant women, people who are moderately or severely immunocompromised, people who have had a recent organ transplant, and those who are undergoing chemotherapy or have had a bone marrow or stem cell transplant. Further, most children under 12 months of age are not vaccinated.

Van Sickels added that people with HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) should ask their health care provider if they can get the measles vaccine, as this varies from person to person.

### TIPS FOR PEOPLE WHO CAN'T GET VACCINATED

Van Sickels said there is a low chance for an unvaccinated person to get measles if they are just out and about town, but if they are spending time in crowded places, traveling on planes or public transportation, or traveling outside the country, they need to protect themselves with basic public health measures.

“If you can wear a simple surgical mask that is protective.

Wash your hands regularly. Try to go and be in open-air spaces as much as you can,” he said. “Those are the tools you have if you’re traveling internationally and you have a child that’s less than 12 months old.”

He also noted that children as young as 6 months are eligible to receive the vaccine if traveling internationally.

In late May, the CDC urged Americans to be fully vaccinated against measles at least two weeks before they travel internationally. It also urged people who are not able to get vaccinated to talk to their clinician before traveling and to consider postponing their trip.

### WHAT TO DO IF EXPOSED

Van Sickels said it is important for people who have been exposed to the measles, especially if they are not vaccinated, to call their health care provider and their local public health department.

“Kentucky’s health department has been wonderful with this, in this outbreak. . . . They do that very intensive work of contact tracing, which is tough, and then they will actually help facilitate access to exposure treatment,” he said.

Contact tracing involves finding where the infected person was initially exposed and then making sure all of the people that have since been exposed by the infected person are identified and notified.

### VACCINE HESITANCY

The resurgence of measles can be attributed, in part, to declining vaccination rates.

In Kentucky, coverage among kindergartners for the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine for the 2024-2025 school year dropped to 86.9%, which is lower than the national average of 93%. In 2023-2024, that rate was 90% in Kentucky.

Van Sickels said to help people who are vaccine hesitant, he stresses that we have 50-plus years of data on this vaccine about how safe and “overwhelmingly effective” it is.

He also points to the importance of what he called “herd protection.”

“Maybe there’s a child who can’t get it because they have leukemia,” he said. “You getting vaccinated helps that person.”

## NOTICE

In accordance with the requirements of the Public Service Commission (“Commission”) as set forth in 807 KAR 5:001, Section 17 and 807 KAR 5:007, Section 3, of the Rules and Regulations of the Commission, notice is hereby given to the member consumers of Blue Grass Energy Cooperative Corporation (“Blue Grass Energy”) of a proposed rate adjustment. Blue Grass Energy intends to propose an adjustment of its existing rates to reflect the wholesale rate adjustment of its wholesale supplier, East Kentucky Power Cooperative, Inc., pursuant to KRS 278.455(2), by filing an application with the Commission on or after August 1, 2025, in Case No. 2025-00220. The application will request that the proposed rates become effective on or after September 1, 2025.

The present and proposed rates for each customer classification to which the proposed rates will apply are set forth below: <sup>1</sup>

Rate		Item	Present	Proposed
GS-1	Residential, Farm & Non-Farm	Customer Charge	\$ 17.10	\$ 18.07
		Energy Charge per kWh	\$ 0.09598	\$ 0.10142
GS-2	Residential and Farm Inclining Block	Customer Charge	\$ 14.36	\$ 15.17
		Energy Charge - First 200 per kWh	\$ 0.08824	\$ 0.09324
		Energy Charge - Next 300 per kWh	\$ 0.10379	\$ 0.10967
		Energy Charge - Over 500 per kWh	\$ 0.11415	\$ 0.12062
GS-3	Residential Time of Day	Customer Charge	\$ 25.91	\$ 27.38
		Energy Charge - On Peak per kWh	\$ 0.11357	\$ 0.12001
		Energy Charge - Off Peak per kWh	\$ 0.06598	\$ 0.06972
SC-1	Small Commercial (0-100 kW)	Customer Charge	\$ 33.69	\$ 35.60
		Energy Charge per kWh	\$ 0.09644	\$ 0.10190
		Demand Charge over 10 KW per kW	\$ 8.06	\$ 8.52
SC-2	General Service 0-100 KW Time of Day Rate	Customer Charge	\$ 41.46	\$ 43.81
		Energy Charge - On Peak per kWh	\$ 0.14184	\$ 0.14988
		Energy Charge - Off Peak per kWh	\$ 0.08012	\$ 0.08466
LP-1	Large Power (101 - 500 kW)	Customer Charge	\$ 57.60	\$ 60.86
		Energy Charge per kWh	\$ 0.06569	\$ 0.06941
		Demand Charge per kW	\$ 8.64	\$ 9.13
LP-1	Large Power (101 - 500 kW) (Time of Day)	Customer Charge	\$ 57.82	\$ 61.10
		Energy Charge - On Peak per kWh	\$ 0.10703	\$ 0.11309
		Energy Charge - Off Peak per kWh	\$ 0.07519	\$ 0.07945
LP-2	Large Power (over 500 kW)	Customer Charge	\$ 115.20	\$ 121.73
		Energy Charge per kWh	\$ 0.05932	\$ 0.06268
		Demand Charge per kW	\$ 8.64	\$ 9.13
B-1	Large Industrial (1,000 - 3,999 kW)	Customer Charge	\$ 1,150.86	\$ 1,249.11
		Energy Charge per kWh	\$ 0.05986	\$ 0.06497
		Demand Charge Contract per kW	\$ 7.42	\$ 8.05
		Demand Charge Excess per kW	\$ 10.33	\$ 11.21
B-2	Large Industrial (over 4,000 kW)	Customer Charge	\$ 2,301.71	\$ 2,498.20
		Demand Charge Contract per kW	\$ 7.42	\$ 8.05
		Demand Charge Excess per kW	\$ 10.33	\$ 11.21
		Energy Charge per kWh	\$ 0.05422	\$ 0.05885
L	Lighting	Interruptible Service Rider		
		Interruptible Credit per kW	\$ (5.60)	\$ (5.60)
L	Lighting	Open Bottom Light- 6000-9500 Lumens	\$ 12.23	\$ 12.92
		Open Bottom Light- 25,000 Lumens	\$ 19.02	\$ 20.10
		Directional Flood Light	\$ 19.45	\$ 20.55
		Shoebox Fixture	\$ 21.35	\$ 22.56
		Acorn Fixture	\$ 20.60	\$ 21.77
		Colonial Fixture	\$ 17.45	\$ 18.44
		Cobra Head- 5 0,000 Lumens	\$ 26.55	\$ 28.05
		Ornamental Light 6000-9500 Lumens	\$ 12.07	\$ 12.75
		Ornamental light- approx 25000 Lumens	\$ 17.27	\$ 18.25
		Colonial Fixture-		

Rate		Increase	
		Dollars	Percent
GS-1	Residential, Farm & Non-Farm	\$ 5,019,764	5.01%
GS-2	Residential and Farm Inclining Block	\$ 1,913	5.01%
GS-3	Residential Time of Day	\$ 1,299	5.01%
SC-1	Small Commercial (0-100 kW)	\$ 569,455	5.04%
SC-2	General Service 0-100 KW Time of Day Rate	\$ 9,641	5.01%
LP-1	Large Power (101 - 500 kW)	\$ 193,445	5.02%
LP-2	Large Power (over 500 kW)	\$ 499,160	5.00%
B-1	Large Industrial (1,000 - 3,999 kW)	\$ 334,892	7.83%
B-2	Large Industrial (over 4,000 kW)	\$ 801,806	7.62%
L	Lighting	\$ 139,093	5.47%
Special	Special - EKPC Rate G	\$ 640,575	10.40%
Total		\$ 8,211,042	5.51%

The amount of the average usage and the effect upon the average bill for each customer classification to which the proposed rates will apply is set forth below:

Rate		Average Usage (kWh)	Dollars	Increase	Percent
GS-1	Residential, Farm & Non-Farm	1,118	\$7.05		5.01%
GS-2	Residential and Farm Inclining Block	91	\$1.30		5.01%
GS-3	Residential Time of Day	941	\$5.57		5.01%
SC-1	Small Commercial (0-100 kW)	2,188	\$15.98		5.04%
SC-2	General Service 0-100 KW Time of Day Rate	2,272	\$16.86		5.01%
LP-1	Large Power (101 - 500 kW)	49,269	\$260.01		5.02%
LP-2	Large Power (over 500 kW)	325,327	\$1,459.53		5.00%
B-1	Large Industrial (1,000 - 3,999 kW)	1,732,321	\$11,960.42		7.83%
B-2	Large Industrial (over 4,000 kW)	3,755,634	\$22,272.38		7.62%
L.	Lghting	NA	NA		5.47%
Special	Special - EKPC Rate G	7,271,261	\$53,381.26		10.40%

A person may examine the application and any related documents Blue Grass Energy has filed with the PSC at the utility’s principal office, located at 1201 Nicholasville Road, Lexington, KY 40356. (859) 885-4191.

A person may also examine the application: (i) at the Commission’s offices located at 211 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; or (ii) through the Commission’s website at <http://psc.ky.gov>. Comments regarding the application may be submitted to the Commission through its Web site or by mail to Public Service Commission, Post Office Box 615, Frankfort, Kentucky 40602,

The rates contained in this notice are the rates proposed by Blue Grass Energy, but the Commission may order rates to be charged that differ from the proposed rates contained in this notice. A person may submit a timely written request for intervention to the Commission at Post Office Box 615, Frankfort, Kentucky 40602, establishing the grounds for the request including the status and interest of the party. If the Commission does not receive a written request for intervention within thirty (30) days of initial publication or mailing of the notice, the Commission may take final action on the application.

<sup>1</sup> The present and proposed rate in this notice reflect Blue Grass’ approved rates at the time of this notice and not the rate Blue Grass has proposed in Case No. 2025-00103, *Electronic Application of an Alternative Rate Adjustment for Blue Grass Energy Cooperative Puruant to 807 KAR 5:0708*. Therefore, the present and proposed rates in this proceeding could differ based up the Commission’s decision, and timing of decision, in Case No. 2025-00103.