

This release was updated Jan. 20th, 2026, to include additional information.

Island County Health officials are closely monitoring a measles outbreak in neighboring Snohomish County. As of January 16, 2026, three new cases have been confirmed in children following an exposure from an out-of-state family.

Because many Island County residents use the **Mukilteo-Clinton ferry**, it is important to stay informed. A potential exposure occurred on the ferry on **December 30, 2025, between 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.** While the affected family did not disembark onto Whidbey Island, the virus can linger in the air for up to two hours after an infected person leaves the area.

The Best Protection: The MMR Vaccine

Measles is highly contagious, but it is also **highly preventable**. The **MMR (Measles, Mumps, and Rubella) vaccine is 97% effective** at preventing the disease after two doses.

"Vaccination is our strongest tool to keep our families and neighbors safe," says Dr. Shawn Morris, ND - Island County Public Health Director. "By ensuring you and your children are up to date on the MMR vaccine, you aren't just protecting yourself—you are protecting those in our community who may be more vulnerable to serious illness."

When Do Adults Need an "Updated" Vaccine?

Most people are immune if they were born before 1957 or have already had two doses of the MMR vaccine. However, **older adults should check their records** if:

- You were **born after 1957 and vaccinated before 1976, you may or may not have immunity.**
- You are unsure of their vaccination history and are traveling or in a high-risk area.

If you fall into these categories, an updated dose of the modern MMR vaccine is often recommended. If you have documentation of two doses of a measles-containing vaccine given after 1976, you are protected and do not need any additional doses.

You can find community vaccine locations here: <https://www.islandcountywa.gov/1072/Immunizations>

Exposure Sites to Watch

If you were at the following locations during these times, you may have been exposed:

Date	Location	Time Window
Dec 29, 2025	Flying Squirrel Trampoline Park (Everett)	11:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Dec. 30, 2025	Mukilteo-Clinton Ferry	1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
Jan. 8, 2026	Stellar Kids Dentistry (Everett)	9:30 AM-12:30 PM
Jan. 9, 2026	Pathfinder Kindergarten Center (Everett)	8:30 AM – 5:15 PM
Jan. 9, 2026	Serene Lake Elementary (Edmonds)	8:30 AM – 5:15 PM

Jan. 13, 2026	Swedish Mill Creek Medical Facility	1:10 PM – 3:10 PM
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What Should You Do Now?

1. **Check Your Records:** Verify that you and your children have received the MMR vaccine.
2. **Monitor Your Health:** Look for a fever or an unexplained rash.
3. **Call Before You Go:** If you feel sick and believe you were exposed, **call your doctor or clinic first.** This allows them to prepare for your arrival, so you don't accidentally expose others in the waiting room.
4. **Notify Public Health:** If you were at an exposure site, please contact Island County Public Health at **(360) 678-2301**.

For more information and a full list of regional exposure sites, visit Snohomish County Public Health: <https://www.snohd.org/m/newsflash/home/detail/907>

To learn more about measles symptoms & prevention, visit the Washington State Department of Health page here (available in multiple languages): <https://doh.wa.gov/you-and-your-family/illness-and-disease-z/measles>