Measles spread in US in 2019: a record of cases.

Sources

CDC: [https://www.cdc.gov/measles/cases-outbreaks.html](https://www.cdc.gov/measles/cases-outbreaks.html)  
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United States is experiencing the widest outbreak since the year 2000. From January 1 to April 4, 2019, 465 individual cases of measles have been confirmed in 19 US states. This figure is higher than the total number of measles cases reported in US in 2018, i.e. 372 cases, and is the second-greatest number of cases reported in the US since measles was eliminated in 2000. In 2019, the rate of infection is 4.84 cases per day, and if that rate of transmission continues, the number of cases this year will surpass the 2014 record of 667 cases, high by June,

Nineteen US states had measles outbreaks, but most of the cases are in New York City and among children, specifically those who haven’t been vaccinated against the measles virus. Government officials have tried to prevent the spread of the disease by banning unimmunized students from attending public school.

Comment:

In 2018, in US there was the greatest number of imported cases since 2000, and cases in 3 states occurred primarily among unvaccinated people in Orthodox Jewish communities. These outbreaks
were associated with travelers who brought measles back from Israel, where a large outbreak was occurring. Eighty-two people brought measles to the U.S. from other countries in 2018.

According to CDC, more measles cases can occur for any of the following reasons:

- an increase in the number of travelers who get measles abroad and bring it into the U.S., and/or
- further spread of measles in U.S. communities with pockets of unvaccinated people.

In 2019, measles outbreaks are linked to travelers who brought measles back from other countries such as Israel, Ukraine, and the Philippines, where large measles outbreaks are occurring. CDC advice travelers to make sure to be vaccinated against measles before traveling internationally.

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