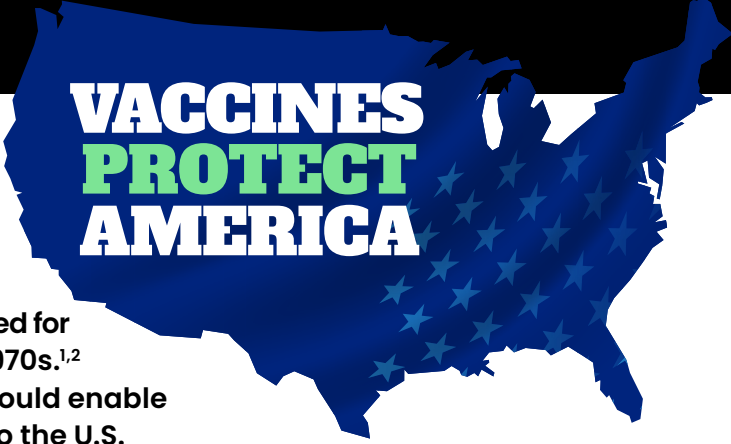


DEADLY DISEASES ARE

A PLANE RIDE AWAY



For decades, vaccines have safeguarded American families. Thank to vaccines, polio and smallpox have both been eradicated for people in the U.S. since the late 1970s.^{1,2} But declining vaccination rates could enable these deadly diseases to return to the U.S.

Measles outbreaks are on the rise globally and polio still spreads in some countries. Unvaccinated individuals exposed to these illnesses risk contracting and spreading them as they travel to the U.S. or elsewhere.

GLOBAL THREATS

Maintaining U.S. eradication of polio and measles relies on widespread vaccination, as travel, immigration, and lack of collective immunity could expose vulnerable Americans to these preventable diseases.



Polio remains endemic in **Pakistan and Afghanistan.**³



In 2024, polio appeared in wastewater in **Spain, Germany, and Poland** – including tourist hotspots like **Barcelona and Munich.**⁴ Similar detections occurred in **London** in 2022.⁵



Measles outbreaks surged by nearly in 2023, affecting 57 countries.⁶

60%



VACCINATION RATES FOR COMMUNITY IMMUNITY

Community or “herd” immunity limits the ability of diseases to spread within a community.

In the 2023–24 school year,

39 of 50

states fell below the 95% MMR target, including 14 below 90%.⁹



Washington, D.C. had a **national-low**

80.4%

polio vaccination rate for students in 2020–21, barely meeting herd immunity.¹⁰



WARNING SIGNS IN AMERICA

Instances in the U.S. as recently as last year underscore the importance of vaccines and why vigilance is critical.

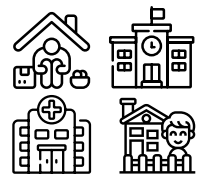
In 2024, U.S. measles cases surged to

285

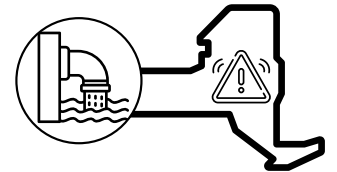
across **31 states and Washington, D.C.** – up from 59 total cases in 2023.¹¹



The largest U.S. measles outbreaks in 2024 occurred at a **migrant shelter in Chicago**, an **elementary school in southeast Florida**, and a **children’s hospital and a daycare center in Philadelphia**.¹²



In 2022, a New York man contracted **paralytic polio** after overseas exposure. Two months later, **New York declared a state of emergency** as polio appeared in 57 wastewater samples.⁷



Vaccines protect Americans from the resurgence of preventable, deadly diseases like polio and measles.



Visit fightinfectiousdisease.org to learn more.



- [Poliomyelitis](#) (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- [The Triumph of Science: The Incredible Story of Smallpox Eradication](#) (National Foundation for Infectious Disease)
- [Endemic Countries](#) (Global Polio Eradication Initiative)
- [Poliovirus has been detected in sewage in 3 European countries. What happens now?](#) (Euronews)
- [Sustained detection of type 2 poliovirus in London sewage between February and July, 2022](#) (The Lancet)
- [Measles cases surge worldwide, infecting 10.3 million people in 2023](#) (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- [Polio Vaccination Rates in Some Areas if the US Hover Dangerously Close to the Threshold Required for Herd Immunity](#) (UConn Today)
- [Progress Toward Measles Elimination – Worldwide, 2000–2023](#) (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- [Childhood Vaccination Rates Continue to Decline as Trump Heads for a Second Term](#) (KFF)
- [Which US states have the highest and lowest polio vaccination rates?](#) (ABC News)
- [Measles Cases and Outbreaks](#) (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- [This year's measles case total is now the highest in the U.S. since 2019](#) (NBC News)



Partnership to Fight Infectious Disease