Statement on the Loss of U.S. Measles Elimination Status

November 13, 2026

The Indiana Immunization Coalition (IIC) is deeply saddened and concerned by the confirmation that the United States has lost its measles elimination status. This decision marks a significant setback for public health in the U.S.

Measles elimination was achieved through decades of dedicated vaccination efforts, a strong public health infrastructure, and communities' commitment to protecting one another. Losing this status means that measles has once again become established in the U.S. through sustained transmission.

Ongoing measles transmission puts more people at risk, particularly infants who are too young to be vaccinated, individuals with compromised immune systems, and others who cannot receive the vaccine. It also places additional demands on healthcare providers, local health departments, and healthcare systems.

The MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella) vaccine is highly effective and has a well-established safety record. Two doses provide approximately 97% protection against measles. Maintaining high vaccination coverage is our strongest defense against further outbreaks.

IIC encourages all Hoosiers to:

- Check your vaccination status. Make sure you and your family are up to date on MMR vaccinations.
- Protect those who are most vulnerable. High community vaccination rates help protect infants and individuals who cannot be vaccinated.
- Rely on trusted information. Turn to healthcare professionals and credible public health sources for accurate information about measles and vaccination.

Losing measles elimination status does not mean we have to accept measles as an inevitable part of life. We know how to prevent this disease, and we have the tools to regain control. Reversing this trend will require a renewed commitment to vaccination and protecting the health of our communities.