



A MINUTE OF HEALTH WITH CDC

Dangerous Imports

Measles — United States, 2008

Recorded: August 19, 2008; posted: August 21, 2008

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In 2000, transmission of measles was declared to be eliminated from the U.S. Unfortunately, measles is still common in many countries. Essentially, all cases of measles in the U.S. are linked to imported cases. As of July 2008, 131 cases have been reported to CDC, the highest number in 12 years. Nearly all were unvaccinated and most were linked to persons who contracted the disease in another country and then traveled to the U.S. The majority of cases occurred among children whose parents opted not to have them vaccinated. Persons who lack protection for measles should be aware that vaccination is the safest, most effective method to prevent measles.

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