

**Department of Epidemiological Surveillance and Intervention
Vaccine Preventable and Congenital Diseases' Office**

**Update of the week on the number of measles notified cases
Thursday, 22nd March 2018**

Measles outbreaks continue to occur in a number of EU countries.

From 1/5/2017 up to 22/3/2018, 2200 measles cases have been notified in Greece. The highest frequency has been observed in South Greece. It concerns people of Greek nationality (mainly young Roma children, as well as Greek adults mainly aged 25-44 years old) susceptible to measles, among them healthcare professionals who were unvaccinated or partly vaccinated. More cases are expected to be laboratory confirmed in the near future, and an increase of cases as well as spread in other geographical areas cannot be excluded. Two deaths have been reported in laboratory confirmed measles cases. The first case concerned an 11-months old unvaccinated Roma infant, with underlying dystrophy, who died of septicaemia. The second case concerned a 17-year-old unvaccinated Roma, who died of encephalitis. The third case concerned a 35-year-old female, from the general population, partially vaccinated as reported, who died of Pneumonia / Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS).

Vaccination with the combined measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine is recommended for children, adolescents and adults who have not been vaccinated with the appropriate doses. According to the National Immunization Program, children, adolescents and adults who were born after 1970 and have no evidence of immunity should receive 2 doses of measles containing vaccine.

Epidemiological surveillance of the disease, healthcare professionals' vigilance, intensification of vaccination and continuous awareness by the local and national authorities are the most appropriate measures for the control of the disease.

Table. Measles notified cases, Greece*

Laboratory confirmed cases with serological test and/or PCR in pharyngeal swab	1283
Probable cases meeting the clinical criteria and epidemiological link with laboratory confirmed cases	766
Possible cases meeting the clinical criteria	151
TOTAL CASES	2200

* Includes data notified to HCDPC from May 1st, 2017 up to March 22nd, 2018 at 12:00 pm