

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

**Update of the week on the number of measles notified cases
Thursday, 20th September 2018**

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

From 1/5/2017 up to 20/9/2018, 3256 measles cases have been notified in Greece. The highest frequency has been observed in Southern 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. Four deaths have been reported in laboratory confirmed measles cases. The first case concerned an 11-month 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). The fourth case concerned a 18-year-old male, from the general population, with underlying immunodeficiency, fully vaccinated, 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	1883
Probable cases meeting the clinical criteria and epidemiological link with laboratory confirmed cases	1162
Possible cases meeting the clinical criteria	211
TOTAL CASES	3256

* Includes data notified to HCDPC from May 1st, 2017 up to September 20th, 2018 at 12:00 pm