

# Situation Report No. 2

## Measles in the Americas Region

7 May 2026

Data as of EW 16 2026 11:00 EST (UTC-05:00). Information in this document is subject to change.

### Situation Overview<sup>1,2</sup>

Between epidemiological weeks (EW) 1 and EW 16 of 2026, countries in the Region of the Americas reported 18,352 confirmed measles cases including 15 deaths. In 2025, 14,503 measles cases were reported, including 32 deaths. This follows a marked rise in cases during 2025, with continued acceleration observed in early 2026.

Since the publication of Situation Report No. 1 (EW 12, 2026), an additional 3,887 confirmed cases including six deaths have been reported, reflecting continued expansion of outbreaks in Mexico and Guatemala, sustained transmission in Canada, and newly reported cases in Peru.

The highest number of confirmed cases in 2026 have been reported in Mexico (10,049 cases), Guatemala (5,399 cases), the United States of America (1,792 cases), and Canada (944 cases).

Transmission continues to disproportionately affect children, particularly those aged 1–9 years, with the highest incidence rates observed among infants aged under one year.

Available vaccination data indicate that a substantial proportion of confirmed cases occurred among unvaccinated individuals.

### Response Highlights

- Strengthened regional and country-level surveillance to support timely detection, monitoring, and response to measles outbreaks, including epidemiological monitoring, and analytical modeling.
- Engaged regional and global audiences during Vaccination Week in the Americas, including a press conference on 23 April 2026 and traveler-focused messaging through Panama’s Tocumen Airport and COPA Airlines.
- Advanced cross-country preparedness for the FIFA World Cup 2026, with communication and coordination activities targeting travelers and host communities on vaccination and other public health considerations for mass-gathering events.
- Provided technical guidance and operational support to strengthen laboratory, diagnostic, and vaccine safety capacities, including a technical mission to Peru (21–24 April 2026) to enhance measles genotyping capacity at the National Institute of Health (INS as per its acronym in Spanish), as well as support for laboratory response coordination and monitoring during immunization activities.

### SITUATION IN NUMBERS

From EW 1 to EW 16 2026

**18,352**

Confirmed Cases

**14**

Countries reporting cases

**15**

Deaths\*

PAHO/WHO Measles Dashboard:

<https://tinyurl.com/3xtciv84>

\* 11 deaths reported from Mexico and four from Guatemala

<sup>1</sup> Pan American Health Organization / World Health Organization. Situación Actual del Brote. Washington, D.C.: PAHO/WHO; 2026. Available in Spanish from: <https://tinyurl.com/3xtciv84>

<sup>2</sup> Ministerio de Salud Pública y Asistencia Social. Juntos podemos detener el sarampión. Guatemala City: MSPAS; 2026. Available in Spanish from: <https://saludjuntos.gt/>

Please note that the data in the measles dashboard is updated dynamically as new cases are reported and the numbers displayed reflect the most recent information available and are subject to change as additional reports are received or detected.

## PAHO Response by Strategic Pillar

### Collaborative Surveillance

- Conducted ongoing regional monitoring of measles cases and key epidemiological indicators to track the evolution of the outbreak and inform response activities.
- Conducted a technical support mission in Peru (21–24 April 2026) to strengthen laboratory capacities at the INS, with a focus on genotyping.
- Developed analytical tools to support emergency decision-making, including nowcasting to adjust for reporting delays, short-term forecasting based on time-varying  $R_t$  estimates, and age-structured SEIR scenario modeling to support vaccination strategy discussions. Currently under review.
- Held technical discussions with national immunization programs in Peru and Guatemala on the safety on measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine safety in adolescents and adults, including surveillance of Events Supposedly Attributable to Vaccination or Immunization (ESAVI).

### Immunization

- Held virtual follow-up meetings with national focal points of affected countries to monitor the response to measles outbreaks.
- Deployed a consultant to strengthen vaccination activities in Guatemala.

### Risk & Crisis Communication and Community Engagement

- Ongoing social listening and misinformation monitoring and promotion of guides to combat misinformation for different audiences in four languages. Guides available from: <https://www.paho.org/en/topics/immunization/immunization-toolkit/risk-communication-and-community-engagement-rcce#three>
- Held in-person workshops on misinformation for health workers and communicators in Bolivia and El Salvador.
- Actions related to Vaccination Week in the Americas:
  - Disseminated measles-focused vaccination messaging to international travelers through placements at Panama's Tocumen Airport and in COPA Airlines' travel magazine, in the context of Vaccination Week 2026.
  - Conducted a press conference on 23 April 2026, in the context of Vaccination Week, to address the ongoing measles outbreaks. Press briefing available from: <https://www.youtube.com/live/pvoGctdvMLc>
  - Disseminated measles-related content through trusted content creators in English, Spanish, and Portuguese.
  - “Let’s talk about health” podcast addressing vaccine myths and facts, with a focus on measles. Available from: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yCO5fzWEIzk>