DISEASE ELIMINATION INITIATIVE

Maintaining elimination: vaccination, surveillance and community engagement

Guatemala is protecting its achievements against measles, rubella, congenital rubella syndrome, polio and neonatal tetanus.



2,623,267
people vaccinated during the outbreak response

112,914
zero doses administered to infants aged 6 to 11 months

8 M+
additional doses of MR and MMR vaccine through the PAHO Revolving Fund

*Data as of 6 November 2026.

01 WHY IT MATTERS

Guatemala seeks to maintain the elimination of measles, rubella, congenital rubella syndrome, poliomyelitis and neonatal tetanus.

This requires vaccination coverage of 95% or higher, consistent across all areas.

The current measles outbreak underscores the need to close immunity gaps and interrupt transmission.

02 IMPLEMENTATION STATUS

- Active community and hospital case finding as part of measles epidemiological and laboratory surveillance.
- Microplanning for routine vaccination and the measles outbreak response, implemented in 100% of municipal health districts (371 out of 371).
- Environmental surveillance of poliovirus in wastewater, complementing epidemiological surveillance.
- Nationwide electronic reporting platform interoperable with the Guatemalan Social Security Institute (IGSS), the private sector and the regional system, featuring real-time dashboards.
- Rapid Response Teams trained nationwide to address outbreaks.

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03 GOOD PRACTICES

- Coordinated work among MSPAS, PAHO/WHO, territorial teams and strategic partners such as the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), integrating epidemiology, microplanning and community participation.
- Microplanning at the local level to reach communities at greatest risk with vaccination services.
- Trained comadronas (traditional midwives) lead knowledge-sharing sessions in Quiché, Quetzaltenango, Sololá and Totonicapán to promote vaccination.
- Guide for teachers, comadronas (traditional midwives) and community leaders on community surveillance and vaccination, translated into Mayan languages.



Coordinated work with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).



Partnership and training with comadronas (traditional midwives).

3,465
participations in 31 technical training sessions

128,000+
promotional materials across the 29 health areas

04 NEXT STEPS

1. Implement the response plan to end the measles outbreak and restore elimination status.
2. Continue vaccination campaigns and intensified vaccination activities to achieve coverage of 95% or higher, uniformly across the 29 health areas.
3. Strengthen the rapid response to imported cases and risks of cross-border transmission through coordinated surveillance and vaccination activities.
4. Ensure the timely availability of vaccines through the PAHO Revolving Fund.



Measles Outbreak Management Dashboard in Guatemala

VIDEO

Maintaining elimination · 3:00 [In editing · link pending]