PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

March 19, 2026

Infectious Disease Update: Protect Yourself Against Measles

Measles is a highly contagious, serious viral infection that spreads through the air by coughing or sneezing and causes fever, rash, and potentially fatal complications, particularly in unvaccinated individuals. Symptoms typically appear one to two weeks after exposure and can include high fever, cough, runny nose, and a rash. Serious outcomes include hospitalization (about 1 in 5 reported cases in the U.S.) and pneumonia. Severe complications can include brain swelling, deafness, intellectual disability, and even death.

In 2000, measles was officially declared eliminated in the United States. However, a recent outbreak in South Carolina and a culmination of outbreaks and continued spread in the U.S. that started last year, risks losing this status. According to the South Carolina Department of Public Health, as of March 13, 2026, 996 total cases have been confirmed. In

Georgia there were 10 confirmed measles cases in 2025, and at least two cases have been reported so far in 2026. For the majority of these cases, the infectedpersons were unvaccinated.

The MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) vaccine can prevent measles. The vaccine is safe and effective, and parents with questions about the vaccine or the vaccination schedule can consult their physician. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that children receive their first dose of MMR vaccine between 12 and 15 months of age and a second dose between 4 and 6 years of age. For babies aged 6-11 months, travelling internationally, the CDC recommends a single dose of the MMR vaccine before travel, followed by two additional doses after their first birthday.

Two doses of MMR vaccine are 97% effective against measles. Individuals who are vaccinated with the MMR vaccine also help protect others who are too young or medically unable to be vaccinated.

People with measles symptoms should contact their healthcare provider immediately. DO NOT go to the doctor's office, the hospital, or a public health clinic without first calling to let them know about your symptoms.

For the latest updates on nationwide measles cases and outbreaks, visit https://www.cdc.gov/measles/data-research/index.html.

Septic Tank Pumping and Repair Assistance for Cobb Homeowners - Available Now

Cobb & Douglas Public Health is helping eligible Cobb homeowners maintain and repair their septic systems to protect health, water quality, and the environment.

Program Benefits:

Income-eligible primary Cobb homeowners who participate in the project will receive a subsidy of up to **$500** (based on actual cost of service), paid directly to the certified service provider, to complete their septic tank pumping. Upon inspection, if repairs are needed, the project will subsidize up to **$15,000** to repair the system or connect the home to local sewer. The project collaborates with certified local service providers to ensure that all septic tank pumping and repair meets all state and local requirements.

Households with incomes at or below 300% of the Federal Poverty Level qualify. For example, in 2026, a family of four earning $96,450 or less is eligible.

Certified local service providers ensure all work meets state and local requirements. Regular maintenance prevents overflows, costly repairs, and potential health risks for your family and community.

Eligible services must occur between March 26, 2025 and Sept. 30, 2026, or until grant funds are exhausted.

Homeowners interested in applying can enroll by following these simple steps:

Step 1: Complete the Application Online or download and print a PDF version. If you print the application, please mail it along with the supporting documents to:

Cobb Environmental Health
Septic Pump/Repair Project
1650 County Services Parkway
Marietta, GA 30008

Step 2: Once household income eligibility is verified, an Environmental Health Specialist will contact the homeowner to schedule inspections and to select a certified vendor.

For more information about the Low-Income Septic System Pump/Repair Project, visit the FAQs page, contact us by email or call 770-435-7815.

**This project is made possible through Cobb County American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. Eligible services must occur between March 26, 2025 and Sept. 30, 2026, or until grant funds are exhausted.*

CDPH Receives Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for 10th Consecutive Year

Cobb & Douglas Public Health (CDPH) was recently awarded the **Government Finance Officers Association's (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award** for FY2026. This is the 10th year CDPH has received this award, which recognizes state & local governments for producing high-quality, transparent and user-friendly budget documents.

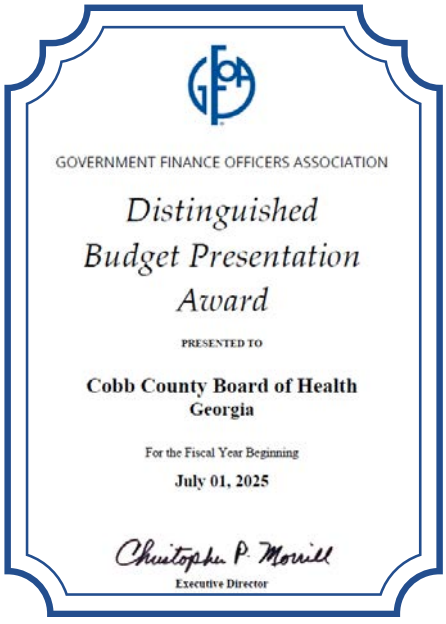
The award encourages excellence in budgeting, serving as a benchmark for effective communication and financial planning.

To receive this award, CDPH had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. These guidelines are designed to assess how well an entity's budget serves as:

- a policy document
- a financial plan
- an operations guide and
- a communications device

Budget documents must be rated "proficient" in all four categories, and in the 14 mandatory criteria within those categories.

For more information about the GFOA Budget Presentation Award, visit https://ow.ly/4ZSG50Yewc2


GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

Distinguished Budget Presentation Award

PRESENTED TO

Cobb County Board of Health
Georgia

For the Fiscal Year Beginning

July 01, 2025

Christopher P. Morrill

Executive Director

CDPH in the Community: Upcoming Events in Cobb and Douglas Counties

CDPH regularly engages with community partners to provide convenient access to important health services, education and resources. Some of the services offered include:

- **HIV Program:** Free HIV testing*
  **Cost covered by grant funds.*
- **Clinical Outreach:** BMI screenings, blood pressure checks, and flu vaccines
- **WIC Program:** Information about nutrition services for pregnant women, mothers, and young children
- **The Community Health Worker (CHW) Program:** Connections to CDPH services and other community resources

Find additional future events by visiting: https://cobbanddouglaspublichealth.com/cdphevents/month/

Saturday, April 4 - 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Douglasville Easter Egg-Stravaganza
7775 Malone Street, Suite 100
Douglasville, GA 30134
The WIC and HIV programs will be on site.

Saturday, April 11 - 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Anneewakee Health & Wellness Fair
3000 Anneewakee Falls Parkway
Douglasville, GA 30135
The WIC and Clinical Outreach programs will be on site.

Saturday, April 18 - 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Milford Baptist Church Health Fair
1030 Milford Church Road SW
Marietta, GA 30060
The HIV program will be om site.

Tuesday, April 21 - 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Annual Senior EXPO
2245 Callaway Road SW
Marietta, GA 30008
The Clinical Outreach program will be on site.

Tuesday, May 7 - 9:00 a.m. - Noon
Health and Wellness Walk
7775 Malone Street, Suite 100
Douglasville, GA 30134
The CHW program will be on site.

Marietta Health Center Express Clinic Expands Services Offered

To better serve the community and reduce wait times, the Express Clinic located at the Marietta Health Center has added more services and is ready to serve you. This clinic is designed to provide fast, convenient access to key health services, ensuring a more efficient experience.

Services now offered:

- Pregnancy Test: Urine pregnancy testing with proof of result provided.
- College Health Screening: Titers, Vaccine History, and USGA Forms completed.
- Immunity Testing / Titers: Blood testing to check for antibodies from previous vaccinations or infections to meet college or work requirements.
- Routine TB Screening: Required screening for school or work through PPD TB Skin Testing or QFT serum testing.
- Rapid Hepatitis C Testing: 20-minute rapid test, when testing supplies are available.
- Rapid HIV Testing: Results available at your visit.
- Express STI Screening: Includes testing for Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, Syphilis, and HIV for routine screening for eligible patients. Appointment does not include an exam and results are available in approximately 7 business days.
- Birth Control Pill Refills / Repeat Depo Shots: For established CDPH clients.
- High Blood Pressure Evaluation: Evaluation of blood pressure and referral to Hypertension Management program as needed.

For more information or to make an appointment, visit: https://cobbanddouglaspublichealth.com/services/express-clinic/

Popular Services Available at Cobb & Douglas Public Health

Adult Health: Offers testing and treatment for STIs for both men and women. Birth control and women's health exams. HIV prevention medications Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) available. Call 770-514-2300 or make an appointment.

Immunizations: Offers a regular schedule of vaccinations from infancy through adulthood, including required school forms and screenings. Costs vary. Call 770-514-2300 or make an appointment.

WIC: Provides nutrition assessments, health screenings, nutrition education, breastfeeding support and eWic cards for healthy foods. Offers hybrid or in-person services. Call 770-514-2389 to make an appointment.

Travel Health Services: Provides education and vaccinations to help travelers avoid health risks during international travel. Call 770-514-2300 or make an appointment.

Safe Kids: Injury prevention program for children from birth to 18 years of age (education, car seat checks, and free or reduced-cost car seats). Call 770-850-3285 or make an appointment for a car seat inspection.

TB/Refugee Health Services: Provides TB surveillance, including case finding, case reporting, case management and contact investigations. Refugee Health Services provides domestic health screenings to newly arrived refugees. Call 770-514-2362 or make an appointment.

Family Planning & Birth Control: Services offered include: physical exams, breast and cervical cancer screening, STI screening and Intrauterine Device (IUD) and other contraceptive methods. Call 770-514-2300 or make an appointment.

Express Clinic: Offers quick and affordable services including pregnancy testing, Hep C testing, lab titers and testing for several STIs including Syphilis, Gonorrhea, Chlamydia and HIV. Call 770-514-2300 or make an appointment.

Pregnancy Assistance: Offers early prenatal care, assisting with Medicaid enrollment. Provides healthy pregnancy education and community referrals. Call 770-514-3112 or make an appointment.

Child Health: Offers well-child checkups from one month to 21 years of age to achieve and maintain optimal health. Call 770-514-2300 or make an appointment.

Children 1st: Identifies medical and developmental needs for children through assessments and home visits, and provides links to community services. Call 770-514-2759 for more information.

Babies Can't Wait/Children's Medical Services: Statewide case management programs that serve children with developmental delays (birth to 3 years of age) and special health needs (birth to 21 years of age). Call 770-514-2759 for eligibility requirements or to learn more.

COBB & DOUGLAS PUBLIC HEALTH

www.cobbanddouglaspublichealth.org