

Recent Measles Outbreaks in Texas and One Close to Home: Vaccination is Key to Protection

A new measles case was identified in Stevens County last week, and over 200 cases of measles have been reported in Eastern Texas, now spreading to other areas, sparking more concerns across the US. It's important to remind our community of the critical role vaccination plays in preventing the spread of this highly contagious virus. While measles can be survived, it can also be miserable and lead to severe complications such as pneumonia, encephalitis, and even death. The good news is, it is preventable with the MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) vaccine starting at 12 months old and a booster at age 4.

Common symptoms of measles include a fever higher than 101°F, cough, runny nose, and red/watery eyes. After one to four days, a red rash appears on the face and start spreading down across the body.

Our community has good immunization rates, but it never hurts to double-check. If you or your child have received two doses of the MMR or MMRV vaccine, you're considered up-to-date and well-protected. People born before 1957 are also assumed to be immune, as many were naturally exposed to measles prior to widespread vaccination.

The MMR vaccine is incredibly effective, offering 97% protection against measles. While breakthrough cases are rare, they can occur due to factors like waning immunity

Morton County Extension News

Crystal Bashford Agent

Time to Plant Potatoes in Kansas

K-State Research and Extension news service

MANHATTAN, Kan. — For Kansas gardeners, St. Patrick's Day means something much more than donning a favorite green outfit and heading to local celebrations.

Traditionally, the Irish holiday signals the date for planting potatoes.

"Actually, anytime from mid- to late-March is fine for potato planting," said Kansas State University horticulture expert Cynthia Domenghini.

"Be sure to buy seed potatoes rather than using those intended for cooking. Seed potatoes are certified disease free and have plenty of starch to sprout as quickly as soil temperatures allow."

Domenghini notes that most seed potatoes can be cut into four pieces – "though large potatoes may yield more," she said. Each seed should

weigh between 1 ½ to 2 ounces, and likely have more than one eye.

Each pound of seed potatoes should yield 8 to 10 pieces, according to Domenghini.

"Cut the seed 2 to 3 days before planting so that freshly cut surfaces have a chance to suberize, or toughen, which provides a protective coating," Domenghini said. "Storing seed in a warm location during suberization will speed the process."

Domenghini recommends planting each seed piece 1 to 2 inches deep and 8 to 12 inches apart in rows.

"Though it is important to plant potatoes in March, they emerge slowly," she said. "It is often mid- to late-April before new plants poke their way through the soil. As the potatoes grow, pull soil up to the base of the plants. New potatoes are borne above the planted seed piece and it is important to keep sunlight from hitting the new pota-

atoes."

Domenghini said exposed potatoes will turn green and produce a poisonous substance called solanine. Keeping the potatoes covered will prevent this.

Domenghini and her colleagues in K-State's Department of Horticulture and Natural Resources produce a weekly Horticulture Newsletter with tips for maintaining home landscapes and gardens.

Interested persons can subscribe to the newsletter, as well as send their garden and yard-related questions to hortsupport@ksu.edu, or contact your local K-State Research and Extension office.

K-State Horticulture Newsletter, <https://hnr.k-state.edu/extension/info-center/newsletters/index.html>

K-State Research and Extension local offices, <https://www.ksre.k-state.edu/about/statewide-locations.html>

Insight: After the Smoke

Greg Doering, Kansas Farm Bureau

The changing of clocks always makes me grumpy, especially in the spring when it means losing an hour of the weekend. I understand the rationale behind the whole charade, but understanding doesn't do anything to alleviate my mood after springing forward. It usually takes at least a couple of weeks to adjust.

Just to be abundantly clear, the practice of shifting clocks forward and backward has nothing to do with creating or eliminating daylight, rather it merely shifts how humans experience it. Nature doesn't recognize the time we keep, but I'm sure there were some pets happy to receive breakfast an hour early Sunday morning.

What does enhance my mood is the prospect of warmer weather. With just a few days until spring, there's plenty of promise in sunshine-filled days and temperatures that allow you to leave a jacket at home.

With the warmer weather another sign of spring will soon

One Case of Measles Confirmed in a Kansas Resident

TOPEKA – The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and the Stevens County Health Department have reported a positive case of measles in a resident of Stevens County. It is currently unknown whether this case is linked to any ongoing measles outbreaks in the United States.

KDHE, along with the Stevens County Health Department, are notifying individuals who may have been exposed to this case of measles. This incident marks the first measles case in Kansas since 2018.

Early symptoms of measles are a fever of more than 101 degrees Fahrenheit, runny nose, cough, and red, watery eyes. Usually, one to four days after these early symptoms, a red rash appears on the face and spreads to the rest of the body. Measles symptoms typically develop 10-14 days after exposure. Symptoms can develop as soon as seven days and as long as 21 days after exposure.

Measles is a respiratory disease caused by a virus. Measles is spread through the air by breathing, coughing or sneezing. Measles can be spread from an infected person to others from four days before, to four days after the rash appears.

Because measles is a highly infectious disease, it is very important for anyone exposed and experiencing symptoms to isolate from others with the exception of visiting a health care provider.

The best way to prevent measles is to get the Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccine. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends children get their first dose at 12 to 15 months of age, and a second dose at age 4 to 6 years. Infants ages 6 through 11 months old should get the MMR vaccination if traveling outside the United States. Adults are protected from measles if they have had at least one dose of the MMR vaccine, were born

before 1957, or have evidence of immunity from a blood test.

If an individual has known exposure to someone with measles and they are not immune through vaccination or prior infection, they are recommended to:

- Consult with a health care provider to determine if post-exposure prophylaxis is recommended.
- Exclude themselves from public settings for 21 days from the last time they were exposed unless symptoms develop.
- If symptoms develop, individuals should notify their local health department and stay away from public areas until four days after the rash appears.
- Individuals seeking health care are advised to call ahead to their health care provider and let them know their symptoms and exposure concerns. This will help limit exposure within the healthcare setting.

Per K.A.R. 28-1-2, measles is a four-hour reportable disease. If a health care provider, laboratory or hospital suspects, tests, or diagnoses an individual with measles, KDHE should be notified immediately. KDHE will work with the health care provider on testing recommendations. Teachers and school administrators are also required by law to report suspected cases to KDHE.

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Syracuse Dairy
Morton County location is now accepting applications for milking positions starting at \$14.00 an hour with a \$250.00 signing bonus. Benefits include 401K, health insurance, dental insurance, and life insurance. Please apply in person at our office (751 SE CR 36, Syracuse, KS 67878) or call 620-492-2525.

First published in the Elkhart Tri-State News, Thursday, March 20, 2025, Thursday, March 27, 2025, Thursday, April 3, 2025.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF MORTON COUNTY, KANSAS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
DON DAVID DUNN, also known as
DAVID DUNN, DECEASED

Case No. MT-2025-PR-000006

NOTICE OF HEARING

STATE OF KANSAS, TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that a Petition has been filed in this court by Don Ray Dunn, as and as heir of Don David Dunn also known as David Dunn, deceased, praying for the determination of the descent of all of the property described in the Petition and all other property, both real and personal, owned by decedent in Kansas at the time of death; and you are hereby required to file your written defenses thereto on or before, April 16, 2025 at 9:30 a.m., of said day, in said court, in the City of Elkhart, in Morton County, Kansas, at which time and place said cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon said Petition.

Don Ray Dunn
Petitioner

Nathanial C. Foreman #22691
Tate, Kitzke, & Foreman LLC
1024 S. Trindle, P.O. Box 909
Hugoton, KS 67951
620-544-2103
nforeman@pld.com
Attorney for Petitioner

Legal Notice

First published in the Elkhart Tri-State News, Thursday, March 20, 2025.

ORDINANCE No. 787

AN ORDINANCE SETTING THE LOCATION, DATE AND TIME OF MUNICIPAL COURT.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS OF THE CITY OF ELKHART, KANSAS:

WHEREAS municipal court shall be held at such time and place designated by ordinance pursuant to K.S.A. § 12-4109; and

WHEREAS the Council Members voted unanimously on February 25, 2025, to set the time and place of Municipal Court to the second and fourth Tuesday nights of each month at 5:30 p.m. at the Municipal Courtroom located at the Elkhart City Hall, 433 Morton Street.

Section 1. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect on and after its passage and publication in the Elkhart Tri-State News.

Section 2. All ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 25th day of February, 2025.

CITY OF ELKHART, KANSAS

Leo Carrillo, Mayor

ATTEST:

Vivian Whisenand
Vivian Whisenand, City Clerk

Approved as to form:

David A. Thompson
David A. Thompson, City Attorney

Legal Notice

First published in the Elkhart Tri-State News, Thursday, March 6, 2025, Thursday, March 13, 2025, Thursday, March 20, 2025.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF MORTON COUNTY, KANSAS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
HOWARD ANDREW DUNN a/k/a
HOWARD DUNN, deceased.

CASE NO. 23-PR-300001

NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE AT PUBLIC AUCTION

STATE OF KANSAS, TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that Don R. Dunn and Verda Mae Allen, Administrators of the above-entitled estate, will offer for sale at public auction the following described real estate, to-wit:

Surface and Surface Rights only in and to the Northwest Quarter (NW/4) of Section Twelve (12), Township Thirty-Two (32) South, Range Forty-one (41) West of the 6th P.M., Morton County, Kansas; and

Surface and Surface Rights only in and to the Northwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter (NW/4 of the NW/4) of Section Thirty-three (33), Township Thirty-one (31) South, Range Forty (40) West of the 6th P.M., Morton County, Kansas.

The sale will commence on April 1, 2025 at 8:00 o'clock a.m. and ending on May 2, 2025 to the highest bidder for cash. The location of the auction shall be by phone and bids shall be placed to Karen Yoder of Faulkner Real Estate, Inc. by calling (620) 544-3730 or by calling Faulkner Real Estate, Inc.'s main office at 620-356-5808. The successful bidder will sign a contract and deposit 10% earnest money with Frazee Abstract & Title as escrow and closing agent. Seller and Buyer will split the cost of title insurance and closing fee. Real Estate taxes will be prorated to the date of closing. Sale will be subject to owner acceptance and court approval. The property is being sold As-Is. Bidders shall make inspections of the property prior to placing bids. Bidding is not subject to financing. Information concerning the sale may be found at www.faulknerrealestate.com All interested persons should take notice and govern themselves accordingly.

Don R. Dunn, Petitioner
Verda Mae Allen, Petitioner

Nathanial C. Foreman, # 22691
Tate, Kitzke & Foreman, LLC
1024 S. Trindle
Hugoton, Kansas 67951
(620) 544-2103
Attorneys for Petitioner

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The City of Elkhart has an opening for a full-time laborer.

Full benefits are included with a competitive salary. Applications may be picked up at the Elkhart City Hall or online @ www.ci.elkhart.ks.us. Job descriptions are available upon request.

(link to the application located at the bottom of the web page)

The City of Elkhart

is accepting sealed bids to demolish and remove a building known as the Girl Scout Hut, located at 202 Morton Street. The statement of work may be picked up at City Hall, 433 Morton Street, Elkhart, Kansas. Bids will be accepted until Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at 5 p.m. All bids received will be opened at the City Council Meeting on Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at 7 p.m.

The City of Elkhart has the right to refuse any and all bids.