Kentucky's measles outbreak has spread to Fayette County

BY AARON MUDD amudd@herald-leader.com

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An outbreak of the highly contagious measles virus in Woodford County has now spread to neighboring Fayette County, state public health officials announced Monday.

In a news release from Kentucky's Cabinet for Health and Family Services, officials said there are five measles cases in the state as of June 30, with four of those connected to the same outbreak. Another case, which is located in Todd County in Western Kentucky, appears to be unrelated. Dr. Steve Davis, medical director for the Lexington-Fayette County Health Department, told the Herald-Leader in a call Monday afternoon there is at least one active measles case in Fayette County.

However, given the circumstances, Davis said the exposure event was limited. The department has been able to conduct contact-tracing and quarantine the individual's contacts. The individuals involved have been selfisolating at home for about two weeks, Davis said.

Still, given that measles is a highly contagious

virus, Davis urged those in the public to call the health department and their health care provider if they suspect they have been exposed. The department can been reached at 859-288-2372.

In a statement, Kentucky Health and Family Services Secretary Dr. Steven Stack described the spread as "not surprising" given the wider measles outbreak across the country. So far this year, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has reported more than 1,200 measles cases across multiple states.

"When there are measles outbreaks in other states and nearby countries, it is not surprising to see spread to Kentucky," Stack said in the cabinet's news release. "Measles can be very serious, but it is avoidable through vaccination. We urge all parents to have their children vaccinated to ensure they are protected from preventable diseases like measles."

Asked earlier Monday if it was treating anyone for measles, UK HealthCare said it had no admitted patients who tested positive for the highly contagious virus.

Last week, four cases of measles were reported in Kentucky, including three in one Woodford County household. The state said none of the four people had been vaccinated for measles.

Kentucky's first confirmed case of measles in 2025 came in February and was documented in a Franklin County adult who traveled abroad. The second case occurred in March in a child traveling

through the state to seek treatment, according to the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services.

Measles is a highly contagious virus, and it infects up to 90% of unprotected individuals if they are exposed. The virus spreads

through respiratory droplets that can remain in the air for up to two hours after an infected person leaves the area. It is especially dangerous for pregnant women and young, unvaccinated children, possibly leading to brain swelling, pneumonia or death and other serious complications.

The telltale measles rash is a red, blotchy rash that usually first appears on the face and behind the ears, as explained by the Mayo Clinic. It then spreads to the chest and back before finally spreading to the feet.

Symptoms typically begin 10 to 14 days following exposure, but the virus can be spread four days before the rash appears and four days after, per the Mayo Clinic. Other symptoms worth watching for include:

- Tiny white spots with bluish-white centers on a red background that are found in the mouth and inner cheeks. These are called Koplik's spots
- Inflamed eyes and conjunctivitis, also known as pink eye
- Fever
- Dry cough
- Runny nose
- Sore throat

Call your doctor or health care provider immediately if you or your child have been exposed to measles. It's important to call ahead to keep the virus from spreading further.

Herald-Leader reporter Monica Kast contributed to this report.

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Here are 4 projects Lexington is focusing on in the second half of 2025

BY PIPER HANSEN *phansen@herald-leader.com*

Lexington's economic development team is aiming to keep the momentum going.

In recent weeks, city leaders have helped turn dirt for company expansions and a 200acre business park almost a decade in the making. They've cut a number of ribbons in front of new stores across Lexington, too.

The city's chief development officer, Kevin Atkins, told the Herald-Leader earlier this month he and his team are hoping to build on positive postpandemic employment recovery by getting a number of projects started or across the At the 300-acre regional industrial park, land price will be closer to \$10,000 an acre, he said.

"These kinds of projects allow us to go to our bread and butter here, but partner on the bigger site — those 10, 15, 20, 25, even 50 acre sites," Atkins said. "So, it makes us more competitive overall."

In December, Lexington-Fayette Urban County Council gave the industrial park final approval allowing for a joint development authority to purchase and manage the park. Revenue from the park will be split evenly among county partners after the city of Berea gets its 10% hosting fee.

Atkins laid out his ideal scenario: A company's research and development team takes up residence in a smaller city office space, tapping into resources at the University of Kentucky and at Transylvania University, then put its manufacturing arm on a larger site in Berea.

"It allows us to protect the horse farms and still gives us a spot for our jobs," Atkins said.

MORE DEVELOPMENT AROUND SOCCER STADIUM

Lexington Sporting Club built its new soccer stadium in less than one year. When initial plans for the pitch were announced in October 2023, Gov. Andy Beshear estimated more than \$92 million would be generated in the first decade of the stadium hosting games and from additional development nearby.

"They'll eventually have one or two hotels out there, some restaurants, some offices and that type of thing there. They're in the throes of signing those flags and doing their marketing for that," Atkins said. "We participated in the soccer stadium and



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Lexington Sporting Club's new stadium is under construction near Athens Boonesboro Road and Interstate 75 in Lexington, Ky., on Thursday, Aug. 15, 2024.

the youth fields knowing that it would spur that."

The stadium's location near an interstate is aiding in advertising the team and surrounding development opportunities, Atkins said. As LSC moves up in leagues, the team will welcome different opponents and their fans and Atkins said it's been the front office's desire has always been to make their stadium a destination.

ADDED ACDEACE TO

640 acres being added to the county's growth boundary north of Athens Boonesboro Road near I-75. Preliminary plans for the acreage indicate 45% of the space may be used for almost 5,000 residential units.

For the first time since 1996, LFUCG voted last summer to expand the growth boundary citing the need for more housing as a driving factor in adding land for development. Initial plans for the 2,800 It gives us more opportunity to show some folks what's going on and (that there's) a chance to locate here."

HIGH STREET SITE

Atkins said the next "urban-centered" project will fit nicely with other downtown development including expansion of the convention center, renovations near Rupp Arena and Town Branch Commons, especially Gatton Park.

What are likely to be final renderings were presented to Atkins about a month ago and he said the mixed-use development on what was an almost 17-acre parking lot will be flush with a hotel, apartment complex, grocery store, entertainment venue and multiple parking garages.

The project is a partnership between Lincoln Properties and the Webb Companies. An independent board, the Lexington Center Board, is managing the project, which Atkins anticipates will begin construction before this fall.

finish line that will bring even more jobs and community resources to Central Kentucky.

Those economic development initiatives include everything from park buildouts to clearing space for more housing and evaluating the best use for acreage recently added to the Urban Service Boundary.

"The biggest issue here is just making sure timelines match up," Atkins said. "... We have what's called 'a one stop shop' where we bring everybody together that's involved with the development process.

"If a developer wants to do it, we sit down and talk (with) public safety, engineering, water quality, all the folks that touch the process," he said. "The developer comes in before he ever files the first application and walks through their initial concept plan. Nothing is finalized yet and we let them poke holes in it."

It's a process that Atkins said brings the bestfit businesses to Lexington at the right time. Here's what the city is turning its attention to for the second half of this year.

REGIONAL BUSINESS PARK IN BEREA

As construction and site work begin at the Legacy Business Park, Atkins said he's going to turn his attention to the Menelaus Industrial Park with partners in Madison and Scott counties.

Across Fayette County, Atkins said the inventory of available space is made up of relatively small sites under 10 acres that sell for anywhere between \$225,000 and \$300,000 an acre.

ADDED ACREAGE TO COUNTY'S GROWTH BOUNDARY

On the opposite side of the entrance to the soccer stadium are more than acres include numerous housing developments, retail space and some industrial lots. Atkins said the acreage

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"gives us more product. ...

PUBLIC NOTICE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

The University of Pikeville (UPIKE) is seeking proposals for new construction of the UPIKE Ag-Tech Innovation Center of Excellence REI Project. Sealed bids will be accepted for the construction of an approximately 11,000 SF facility located at 1367 South Mayo Trail, Pikeville, Kentucky as described in the RFP packet. An on-site, pre-bid meeting will be held on 6/30/2025 at 10:00 a.m. for interested contractors.

All interested persons and firms should call Tiffany Thacker at (606) 218-5953 or email at tbaker@upike.edu to obtain the complete Request for Proposals packet. **Sealed bids must be received at the University of Pikeville, 147 Sycamore Street, Pikeville, KY 41501 by July 11, 2025 no later than 4:00 PM in the Business Office, on the ground level of the Administration Building.** Sealed bids with a proposed lump sum should be mailed or hand-delivered to: UPIKE-Business Office, 147 Sycamore Street, Pikeville, KY 41501. Please clearly mark submissions "UPIKE Ag-Tech Innovation Center of Excellence REI Project--Construction" on the exterior.

Submissions will be opened at Health Professions Education Building (HPEB) – 604 Conference Room on 7/11/2025 at 4:05 p.m. by University officials and reviewed for completeness following the opening. UPIKE reserves the right to reject any and all bids not meeting the requirements of this Request for Proposals for construction services. UPIKE will enter into an agreement with the lowest bidding, responsive and responsible firm. Once a firm has been selected, all unsuccessful firms will be promptly notified.

Kentucky Relay Service for the hearing and speech impaired: 1-800-648-6056.

Attention of respondents to this RFP is particularly called to the meeting the federal requirements and terms and conditions as laid forth in the RFP packet all of which may be incorporated into any contract issued pursuant to this solicitation. Local, minority and female-owned firms are encouraged to respond.

University of Pikeville is an Equal Opportunity Employer