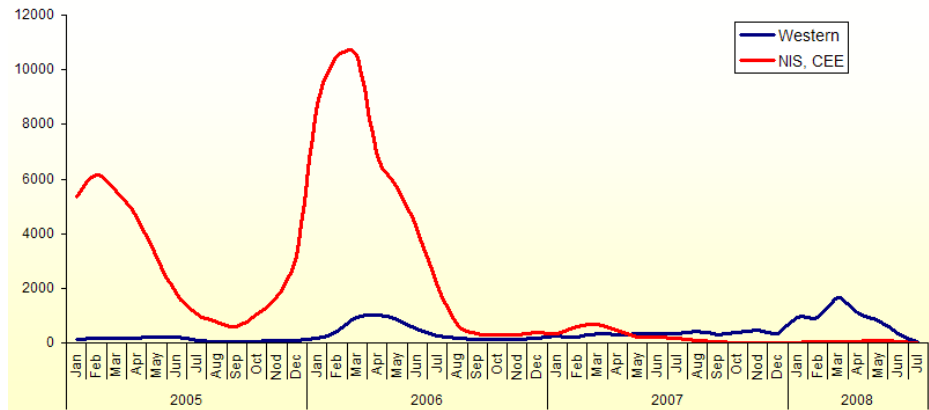


Remarkable progress has been achieved within the Region in the control of measles. Reported measles incidence in the Region in 2007 (6923 cases to date) dropped almost 90% from 2006 levels; the number of countries reporting measles incidence of <1 per 1 000 000 population (elimination target) increased to 29 from 19 in 2007 (map).

However, there are still challenges in reaching the measles elimination goal. As of September, over 6762 measles cases have been reported in the European Region in 2008; six western EU countries (Austria, Germany, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom), and Israel accounted for 92% of the cases. Three of these countries (Italy, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom) have reported 62% measles cases in the European Region. These measles cases have both public health and economic impact on individual countries.

Measles outbreaks are occurring mainly due to clustering of susceptible individuals in specific high-risk groups (underserved minorities or unimmunized individuals based on religious or philosophical beliefs), and the failure to secure sufficient uptake of measles-containing vaccine in selected countries. The challenges are fed by a combination of public and political complacency regarding the importance of immunization, and by a disturbing rise in the influence of anti-vaccination groups and their dangerously misleading advocacy campaigns. The WHO Regional Office for Europe recommends targeting the general population at risk, as well as health care professionals for communication on the need for immunization and increasing the immunization coverage rates.

Measles cases by WHO European sub regions 2005-2008(Jul)



Last 12 month Measles Incidence and Outbreaks
Jul-2007 to Jun-2008

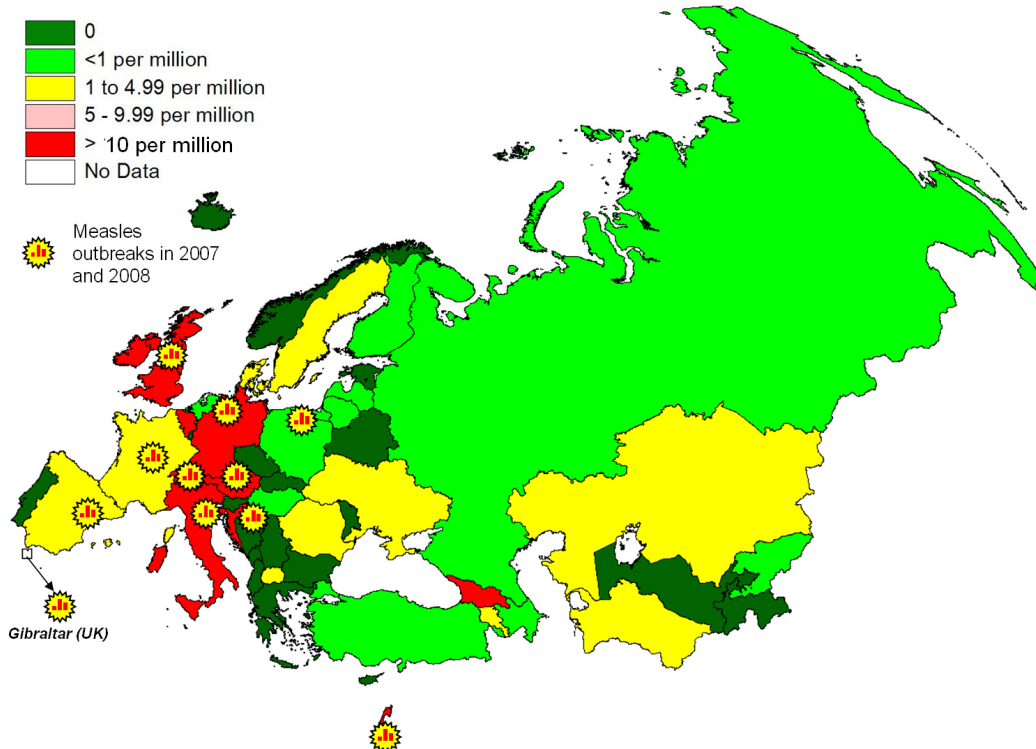


Table 1: Classification of suspected measles and rubella cases, Jan-Jul, 2008

Country	Measles								Rubella							
	Total suspected	Total measles (%)	Classification				Monthly Reporting		Total suspected	Total Rubella (%)	Classification				Monthly Reporting	
			Lab confirmed	Epi-Link	Clinical ¹	Discarded	% Completeness	% Timeliness			Lab confirmed	Epi-Link	Clinical ¹	Discarded	% Completeness	% Timeliness
Albania	1	0	0	0	0	1	100%	100%	0	0	0	0	0	0	100%	71%
Andorra	0	0	0	0	0	0	100%	100%	0	0	0	0	0	0	100%	100%
Armenia	0	0	0	0	0	0	100%	71%	3	3 (100%)	0	0	3	0	100%	71%
Austria ²	375	375 (100.0)	125	3	247	0	57%	14%	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	0%
Azerbaijan	1	1 (100.0)	0	0	1	0	85%	85%	0	0	0	0	0	0	57%	57%
Belarus	0	0	0	0	0	0	85%	85%	1	1 (100%)	1	0	0	0	100%	100%
Belgium ²	95	94 (99.0)	33	56	5	1	85%	28%	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	0%
Bosnia and Herzegovina	No Report	-	-	-	-	-	0%	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	0%
Bulgaria	0	0	0	0	0	0	71%	42%	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	0%
Croatia ²	71	51 (72.0)	39	6	6	20	85%	57%	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	0%
Cyprus	0	0	0	0	0	0	100%	85%	0	0	0	0	0	0	100%	100%
Czech Republic	0	0	0	0	0	0	100%	85%	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	0%
Denmark ²	10	10 (100.0)	10	0	0	0	100%	57%	9	9 (100%)	0	0	9	0	14%	0%
Estonia	2	0	0	0	0	0	100%	42%	0	0	2	0	0	0	85%	28%
Finland ²	2	2 (100.0)	2	0	0	0	100%	85%	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	0%
France ²	129	124 (96.0)	91	5	28	5	71%	42%	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	0%
Georgia	28	28 (100.0)	2	0	26	0	100%	71%	99	99 (100%)	6	0	93	0	100%	71%
Germany ²	886	877 (99.0)	350	396	131	9	85%	57%	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	0%
Greece	0	0	0	0	0	0	57%	28%	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	0%
Hungary	0	0	0	0	0	0	100%	57%	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	0%
Iceland	0	0	0	0	0	0	100%	42%	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	0%
Ireland ²	47	47 (100.0)	5	3	39	0	71%	28%	28	28 (100%)	1	0	27	0	100%	100%
Israel	595	595 (100.0)	69	0	526	0	42%	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	0%
Italy	1209	1209 (100.0)	257	144	808	0	42%	14%	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	0%
Kazakhstan	24	24 (100.0)	19	5	0	0	100%	42%	3227	3227 (100%)	887	1375	965	0	100%	28%
Kyrgyzstan	6	1 (17.0)	1	0	0	5	100%	85%	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	0%
Latvia	2	2 (100.0)	2	0	0	0	100%	57%	4	4 (100%)	3	0	1	0	85%	42%
Lithuania	1	1 (100.0)	1	0	0	0	85%	42%	0	0	0	0	0	0	71%	71%
Luxembourg	0	0	0	0	0	0	42%	14%	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	0%
Malta	1	1 (100.0)	1	0	0	0	100%	71%	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	0%
Moldova	0	0	0	0	0	0	100%	42%	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	0%
Monaco	No Report	-	-	-	-	-	0%	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	0%
Montenegro	0	0	0	0	0	0	100%	42%	0	0	0	0	0	0	100%	42%
Netherlands ²	8	8 (100.0)	8	0	0	0	28%	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	0%
Norway	0	0	0	0	0	0	85%	71%	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	0%
Poland ²	84	19 (23.0)	3	0	16	65	100%	14%	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	0%
Portugal	0	0	0	0	0	0	85%	28%	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	0%
Romania ²	303	23 (8.0)	21	0	2	279	100%	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	0%
Russian Federation	21	21 (100.0)	21	0	0	0	100%	100%	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	0%
San Marino	No Report	-	-	-	-	-	0%	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	0%
Serbia	0	0	0	0	0	0	85%	57%	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	0%
Slovakia	2	0	0	0	0	2	100%	85%	1	0 (0%)	0	0	0	1	85%	42%
Slovenia	0	0	0	0	0	0	100%	85%	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	0%
Spain ²	198	198 (100.0)	162	27	9	0	71%	28%	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	0%
Sweden ²	26	26 (100.0)	19	5	2	0	85%	57%	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	0%
Switzerland ²	2247	2040 (91.0)	776	144	1120	207	71%	14%	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	0%
Tajikistan	0	0	0	0	0	0	42%	14%	16	16 (100%)	0	0	16	0	42%	14%
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	5	5 (100.0)	0	0	5	0	100%	100%	1	1 (100%)	0	0	1	0	42%	28%
Turkey	3	3 (100.0)	3	0	0	0	57%	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	0%
Turkmenistan	0	0	0	0	0	0	100%	71%	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	0%
Ukraine	36	36 (100.0)	5	0	31	0	85%	71%	0	0	0	0	0	0	14%	14%
United Kingdom ²	939	939 (100.0)	918	21	0	0	85%	28%	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	0%
Uzbekistan	2	2 (100.0)	1	0	1	0	100%	85%	17	17 (100%)	11	0	6	0	100%	71%
Total/Averages	7359	6762 (92.0)	2944	815	3003	594	80%	49%	3406	3407 (100.0)	911	1375	1121	1	28%	19%

Data source: Monthly aggregate and case-based data reported by Member States to WHO/Europe and/or EUVAC.NET.

¹ Cases with missing classification are classified as "Clinical"

² Importation of measles cases (included in total cases): Austria=13; Belgium=1; Croatia=2; Denmark=4; Finland=1; France=7; Germany =63; Ireland=3; Netherlands=4; Poland =3; Romania = 12 (including 4 import related cases); Spain=3; Sweden=11; Switzerland=9, UK=9 .

Table 2: Measles and rubella laboratory test results, Jan-Jul, 2008

Country	Specimen* (Serum, Oral Fluid, Swab, Urine and other)									Reporting	
	Collected	Tested for measles	Positive for measles (%)	Measles Equivocal	Negative for measles	Tested for rubella	Positive for rubella (%)	Rubella Equivocal	Negative for rubella	% Completeness	% Timeliness
Albania	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	86.0	71.0
Andorra	No Lab										
Armenia	22	22	1 (5.0)	0	20	22	0 (0.0)	3	18	86.0	43.0
Austria	0	1240	137 (11.0)	17	1086	3332	5 (0.0)	0	3327	100.0	100.0
Azerbaijan	19	12	2 (17.0)	1	9	8	0 (0.0)	0	8	86.0	43.0
Belarus	98	90	0 (0.0)	0	90	96	1 (1.0)	0	95	100.0	86.0
Belgium	122	116	40 (34.0)	5	67	38	5 (13.0)	1	28	100.0	100.0
Bosnia and Herzegovina	No Report										
Bulgaria	45	45	1 (2.0)	0	44	45	1 (2.0)	0	44	100.0	86.0
Croatia	59	59	20 (34.0)	1	38	20	0 (0.0)	0	20	71.0	43.0
Cyprus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	86.0	86.0
Czech Republic	39	25	4 (16.0)	2	19	38	0 (0.0)	0	38	100.0	100.0
Denmark	No Report										
Estonia	469	136	1 (1.0)	0	134	407	4 (1.0)	0	402	100.0	100.0
Finland	355	90	4 (4.0)	0	86	269	0 (0.0)	0	269	86.0	71.0
France	No Report										
Georgia	56	29	0 (0.0)	0	29	28	5 (18.0)	1	22	57.0	14.0
Germany	1084	1076	487 (45.0)	12	577	10	3 (30.0)	2	5	100.0	43.0
Greece	No Report										
Hungary	859	50	0 (0.0)	0	50	88	0 (0.0)	0	88	100.0	100.0
Iceland	No Report									0.0	0.0
Ireland	1082	186	7 (4.0)	1	178	919	0 (0.0)	0	919	100.0	71.0
Israel	1348	529	203 (38.0)	0	326	368	90 (24.0)	0	278	100.0	100.0
Italy	No Report										
Kazakhstan	315	137	20 (15.0)	5	112	291	170 (58.0)	8	113	100.0	86.0
Kyrgyzstan	156	156	13 (8.0)	6	137	156	8 (5.0)	5	143	100.0	71.0
Latvia	140	124	2 (2.0)	0	122	138	0 (0.0)	0	138	100.0	100.0
Lithuania	7	6	1 (17.0)	0	4	7	0 (0.0)	0	6	100.0	100.0
Luxembourg	124	61	0 (0.0)	1	60	63	10 (16.0)	12	41	100.0	100.0
Malta	No Report										
Moldova	20	20	0 (0.0)	0	20	20	0 (0.0)	0	20	100.0	86.0
Monaco	No Lab										
Montenegro	No Lab										
Netherlands	65	63	32 (51.0)	1	30	48	0 (0.0)	0	48	100.0	0.0
Norway	75	61	4 (7.0)	0	57	25	5 (20.0)	0	20	100.0	100.0
Poland	54	54	1 (2.0)	1	52	54	19 (35.0)	1	34	100.0	71.0
Portugal	34	7	0 (0.0)	0	7	0	0	0	0	100.0	100.0
Romania	276	232	17 (7.0)	2	213	259	4 (2.0)	1	254	86.0	86.0
Russian Federation	1893	1837	31 (2.0)	9	1779	1039	171 (16.0)	9	809	100.0	100.0
San Marino	No Lab										
Serbia	118	17	0 (0.0)	0	17	101	2 (2.0)	0	99	86.0	14.0
Slovakia	12	13	1 (8.0)	0	12	0	0	0	0	100.0	86.0
Slovenia	177	39	0 (0.0)	1	38	143	20 (14.0)	0	123	100.0	100.0
Spain	586	818	312 (38.0)	16	388	360	28 (8.0)	0	299	100.0	57.0
Sweden	No Report										
Switzerland	No Lab										
Tajikistan	3	2	0 (0.0)	0	2	3	1 (33.0)	0	2	57.0	29.0
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	No Report										
Turkey	420	417	4 (1.0)	0	413	417	25 (6.0)	1	391	86.0	0.0
Turkmenistan	92	92	0 (0.0)	0	87	92	2 (2.0)	0	85	100.0	100.0
Ukraine	315	302	10 (3.0)	2	290	310	14 (5.0)	0	296	100.0	100.0
United Kingdom	1953	1354	365 (27.0)	39	950	330	7 (2.0)	19	304	43.0	14.0
Uzbekistan	34	24	1 (4.0)	0	23	34	24 (71.0)	1	9	100.0	86.0
Total / Average	12526	9541	1721 (18%)	122	7566	9578	624 (7%)	64	8795	68.0	53.0

*Laboratories may have received more than 1 clinical sample or may have conducted more than 1 test for a given case reported in Table 1

Data source: Aggregated monthly lab data provided by laboratories of the regional measles and rubella lab network.

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All issues of this newsletter can be accessed at: http://www.euro.who.int/vaccine/publications/20080401_1; **CISID:** <http://data.euro.who.int/cisid>

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