

Thousands of Bangla kids measles-stricken

SAIF HASNAT
AND JOHN YOON

Dhaka: A measles outbreak has spread rapidly in Bangladesh, sickened thousands of people, most of them children, and prompted the government to launch an emergency vaccination drive.

The health authorities in

Bangladesh said on Thursday that they had confirmed more than 8,000 infections since March, the highest number of annual cases in about two decades, and 80 deaths. The authorities reported 59,279 suspected cases and 401 suspected deaths from the disease since March.

Four out of every five people with measles in this outbreak are under age 5, according to Rana Flowers, the representative in Bangladesh for the UN Children's Fund, or Unicef.

The outbreak has put intense pressure on the country's health system. All 120 beds dedicated to measles patients at Bangladesh Shishu Hospital, the largest children's hospital in the capital of Dhaka, were occupied on Thursday. The waiting rooms were packed with anxious parents.

Sabina Akter was in one of the beds in a dedicated measles ward at the hospital on Thursday. The 3-year-old girl had been under treatment there for four days, said Miraz

Hossain, her father.

"We were afraid when she fell ill with measles because we heard that many children are dying with measles this year," he said. "We swiftly brought her here. Now her condition is better."

Bangladesh launched an emergency vaccination drive early last month, supported by international aid agencies. This has helped slow down the spread of measles, said Dr Halimur Rashid, director of disease control at the directorate-general of health services, Bangladesh's top health agency.

Public health experts in Bangladesh have linked the outbreak there to a lack of vaccines. Flowers said in a news conference on Wednesday that government officials had failed to heed the agency's repeated warnings since 2024 about an impending vaccine shortage.

"It is the children who suffer the most and that for us is absolutely unacceptable," she said.

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NOTICE

Sri Ratan Saha Employee Code (S-1903), This is to inform you that Dey's Medical Stores Pvt. Ltd had issued a Show Cause Letter to you dated 17.04.2026 at your address available in our official records. However, the said letter has been returned through the postal department with the remark "Left". You are hereby requested to collect the Show Cause Letter from the undersigned within three (3) days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which, the Management shall be constrained to proceed with the next course of action: **TAMAL CHOUDHURY**
Manager - HR & IR