



PART 1: Based on the text below, choose the correct option for each question. Only one item is correct.
(6 points each correct answer)

MEASLES OUTBREAKS SIGNAL A “POST-HERD-IMMUNITY WORLD,” WARNS EXPERT

1. A leading immunologist has warned of a “post-herd-immunity world” as measles outbreaks spread across communities with low vaccination rates in the American Southwest, Mexico, and Canada. The U.S. is experiencing its largest measles outbreak in 25 years, centered in West Texas, where two unvaccinated children and one adult have died. The virus has also spread to neighboring states, including New Mexico and Oklahoma.
2. Dr. Paul Offit, an infectious disease expert at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, stated that measles—the most contagious vaccine-preventable disease—is the first to **resurge** as immunity **wanes**. The U.S. eliminated measles in 2000, but that status could be lost if transmission continues for 12 months. As of May 1, the Center for Diseases Control and Prevention (CDC) reported 935 confirmed cases across 30 jurisdictions, with nearly one in three infected children under five hospitalized.
3. Globally, outbreaks in Canada, Mexico, and the U.S. account for most of the 2,300 measles cases in the World Health Organisation’s Americas region. The risk of measles in the Americas has surged **11-fold** compared to 2024. Similarly, Europe has seen a tenfold increase in cases this year, with 87% occurring in Romania. Low vaccination rates are a key factor, with only Hungary, Malta, and Portugal achieving 95% coverage for both measles vaccine doses.
4. In Mexico, health officials attribute the spread to imported cases traveling between countries. Many infections are in tight-knit Mennonite communities, where limited interaction with public health authorities has led to lower vaccination rates. While Mennonite teachings do not explicitly oppose immunization, cultural and linguistic barriers contribute to the problem.
5. Public health experts are alarmed by the growing anti-vaccine movement, particularly U.S. Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr.’s misleading claims about vaccines. Kennedy, a longtime vaccine skeptic, has falsely asserted that the MMR vaccine contains “aborted fetus debris”—a reference to decades-old fetal cell lines used in its development. His administration has also proposed new vaccine safety measures without providing details, raising concerns among experts who argue that retesting established vaccines like MMR would be unethical.
6. Kennedy recently visited the outbreak’s epicenter in Texas, where he promoted unproven treatments like clarithromycin and budesonide, calling them “miraculous.” However, medical groups, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, emphasize that measles has no cure and that prevention through vaccination—97% effective—is the only reliable solution. Measles can cause severe complications, including death in one in 1,000 infected children and lifelong disabilities from encephalitis.
7. Between 1974 and 2024, measles vaccines saved over 93 million lives worldwide. Yet, declining immunization rates and misinformation threaten to reverse decades of progress, leaving vulnerable populations at risk in a “post-herd-immunity world.”

(Adapted from <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/may/03/measles-post-herd-immunity> . Accessed on May 3, 2025.)

1. Which alternative can be inferred from the first paragraph?
 - a) Measles outbreaks are only occurring in the American Southwest.
 - b) Low vaccination rates are contributing to the spread of measles.
 - c) Measles is no longer a threat due to modern medicine.
 - d) The American Southwest has the highest vaccination rates in the U.S.
2. What can you infer from the following excerpt:

"The U.S. is experiencing its largest measles outbreak in 25 years, centered in West Texas, where two unvaccinated children and one adult have died."

 - a) Measles outbreaks are harmless and rarely fatal.
 - b) Measles only affects children under five.
 - c) West Texas has the best healthcare system in the U.S.
 - d) Unvaccinated individuals are at higher risk of severe outcomes.
3. What does the word **resurge** in the second paragraph mean?
 - a) Disappear completely.
 - b) Change into a different disease.
 - c) Become less contagious.
 - d) Increase again after a decline.
4. According to the excerpt below, which option is TRUE?

"The U.S. eliminated measles in 2000, but that status could be lost if transmission continues for 12 months."

 - a) Measles was permanently eradicated in 2000.
 - b) The U.S. may lose its measles-free status if outbreaks persist.
 - c) Measles transmission has stopped completely since 2000.
 - d) The U.S. never achieved measles elimination.
5. What does the use of the word **wanes** in the second paragraph suggest?
 - a) Immunity decreases over time.
 - b) Immunity becomes stronger.
 - c) Vaccines stop working entirely.
 - d) Measles becomes less contagious.
6. What does the phrase "11-fold" in the third paragraph mean?
 - a) Eleven times higher.
 - b) Eleven times lower.
 - c) Eleven percent higher.
 - d) Eleven percent lower.
7. According to the excerpt below, which option is TRUE?

"Low vaccination rates are a key factor, with only Hungary, Malta, and Portugal achieving 95% coverage for both measles vaccine doses."

 - a) Most countries have achieved 95% measles vaccination coverage.
 - b) Vaccination rates are irrelevant to measles outbreaks.
 - c) Hungary, Malta, and Portugal are the only countries with high vaccination rates.
 - d) Measles vaccines are only effective in Europe.
8. In the fourth paragraph 4, the author mentions all the following EXCEPT:
 - a) Measles outbreaks in Mexico are linked to imported cases.
 - b) Mennonite communities have high vaccination rates.
 - c) Cultural barriers contribute to low vaccination rates.
 - d) Limited interaction with public health authorities is a problem.
9. According to the fifth paragraph 5, which option is TRUE?
 - a) Robert F. Kennedy Jr. supports measles vaccination.
 - b) Kennedy's claims about the MMR vaccine are scientifically accurate.
 - c) Experts are concerned about Kennedy's misleading vaccine statements.
 - d) The MMR vaccine contains harmful fetal tissue.
10. In the sixth paragraph 6, the author mentions all the following EXCEPT:
 - a) Measles has no cure, and vaccination is the best prevention.
 - b) Kennedy promoted unproven treatments for measles.
 - c) Measles complications can include lifelong disabilities.
 - d) Clarithromycin is a proven cure for measles.

PART 2: Mark each of statements below as **true** (T) or **false** (F) according to the text.

(5 points each correct answer)

1. () Measles is the least contagious vaccine-preventable disease. (Paragraph 2)
2. () The U.S. could lose its measles-free status if outbreaks continue. (Paragraph 2)
3. () Europe has seen a decrease in measles cases this year. (Paragraph 3)
4. () Cultural barriers have no impact on vaccination rates in Mennonite communities. (Paragraph 4)
5. () In Mexico, measles outbreaks are solely caused by imported cases. (Paragraph 4)
6. () Robert F. Kennedy Jr. has spread misinformation about vaccines. (Paragraph 5)
7. () Measles vaccines are less than 50% effective. (Paragraph 6)
8. () Measles vaccines have saved millions of lives worldwide. (Paragraph 7)



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ANSWER KEY

PART I - Each question in this part is worth 6 marks, making up a total of 60 marks.

1. B
2. D
3. D
4. B
5. A
6. A
7. C
8. B
9. C
10. D

PART II - Each question in this part is worth 5 marks, making up a total of 40 marks.

1. F
2. T
3. F
4. F
5. F
6. T
7. F
8. T