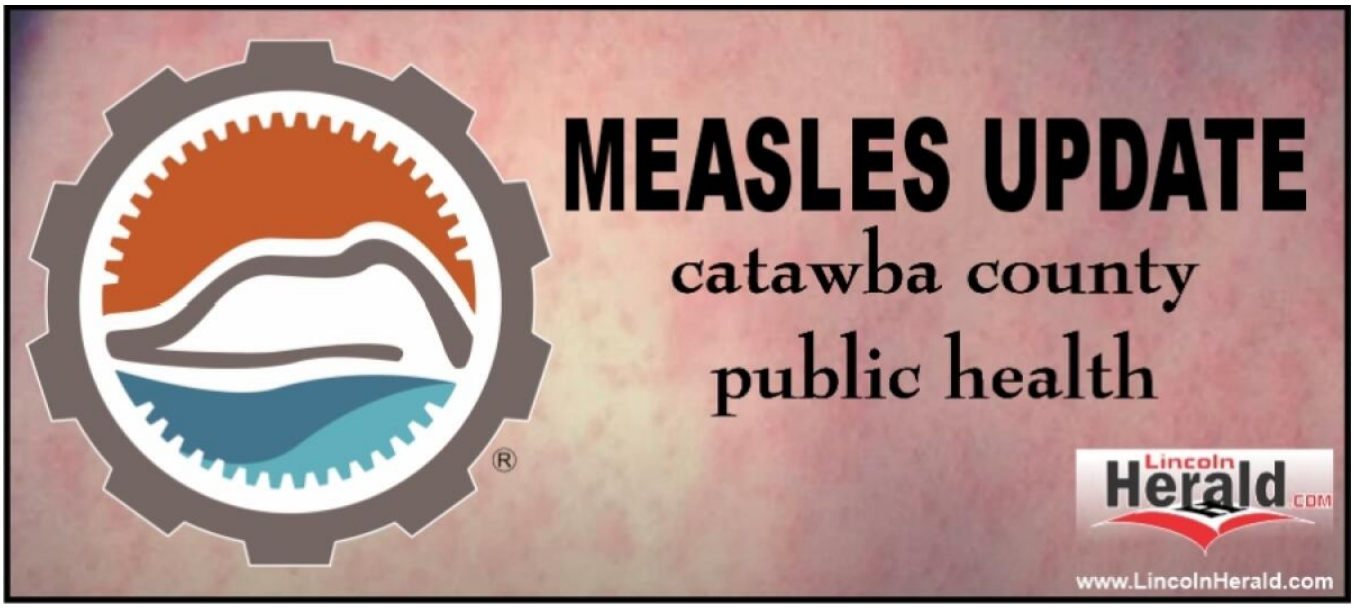


Test Shows Recent Vaccination Caused Initial Positive Measles Results in Catawba County

Catawba County Public Health

HICKORY, N.C.— – Specialized test results show a Catawba County child's initial positive measles test earlier this month was due to a recent vaccination and was not a measles case. Catawba County Public Health and the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services received the results on Wednesday.

The specialized test is called a MeVA assay and it is used to determine if initial positive test results are due to an actual measles infection or if they are due to recent vaccination. About 5% of people develop fever and rash after receiving the MMR vaccine and may test positive. These vaccine-related rashes are not dangerous and can't be spread to others, but they can sometimes be hard to distinguish from measles infections.

The specialized MeVa assay allows providers and public health officials to determine whether there was a measles infection or if the initial positive test was

vaccine-related. In this case, the results show the initial positive test was vaccine-related.

One dose of MMR vaccine is 93% effective at preventing measles, and protection increases to 97% with two doses. While the vast majority of measles cases are in people who are unvaccinated or have unknown vaccination status (96% for cases so far in 2026), infections can rarely occur after vaccination. For more information about measles, please visit dph.ncdhhs.gov/measles.