



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

National Office for Public  
Health/ChildHealth  
Strategic Planning &  
Transformation,  
Health Service Executive,  
Public Health Department,  
Second Floor,  
Mount Kennett House,  
Henry Street,  
Limerick

Post Code V94KN3N

Tel: (061) 483347

Fax: (061) 464205

Website: <http://www.hse.ie>

28<sup>th</sup> November 2019

Deputy John Curran  
TD  
Dail Eireann  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**PQ 4909319: To ask the Minister for Health the number of measles cases in each of the years 2015 to 2018 and to date in 2019 and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Curran,

The above PQ has been sent to my office for direct response to you on same.

The following table summarises the number of notifications on CIDR as of 28/11/2019 at 11:03 hrs

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Measles	2	43	25	76	72

Statement:

In Ireland HSE continues to see measles cases reported each year. However, despite the continued measles incidence the numbers are substantially less than that reported 2010 when 403 cases were reported.

The decrease in the number of cases is as a result of increased measles immunity following improvements in MMR coverage in the population. There are still gaps in immunity with some individuals not vaccinated or some too young for vaccination.

Based information provided to WHO for each year by the HSE, together with information relating to risk factors for acquiring measles and detail on links to other cases reported in Ireland, it is evident that all the cases notified since 2015 are imported cases or cases linked to imported cases. Therefore, WHO European region office has stated that Ireland has eliminated endemic transmission of measles and agrees that that the cases that are being reported are all linked to imported cases.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Kelleher', with a horizontal line underneath.

**DR. KEVIN KELLEHER, FFPHM, FFPHMI**

**ASSISTANT NATIONAL DIRECTOR –PUBLIC HEALTH/CHILD HEALTH – STRATEGIC PLANNING &  
TRANSFORMATION**

**Medical registration number 19719**