

Measles

IT ISN'T JUST A LITTLE RASH

Measles can be dangerous, especially for babies and young children.



Yes. Measles can be very serious, especially for babies and young children. For some children measles can lead to:

- Pneumonia (a serious lung infection)
- Inflammation of the brain which can lead to lifelong brain damage
- Deafness

Severe complications are most likely in infants under 12 months

Can Measles be prevented?

MMR Vaccine can prevent Measles in 95% of children given MMR at or after 12 months. A second dose provides 99% protection to those immunised.

What should I do if I think my child has measles?

- Keep your child at home
- Call your GP so they can see your child when no-one else is there
- Your GP will organise a test to confirm the infection

Reference:

<http://www.hpsc.ie/az/vaccinepreventable/measles/factsheet/>

Version1



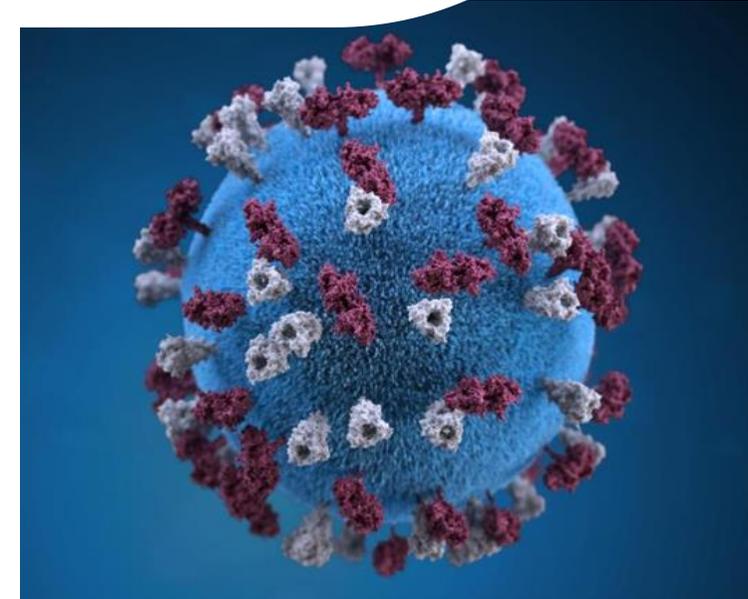
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Measles



What are measles



Measles is an infection caused by a virus (germ) that lives in the mucus of the nose and throat of people that have the infection. It causes a rash, illness, with cough, runny nose, conjunctivitis and high fever. It takes a few days for the rash to appear, it normally starts on the face and then spreads down the body.

Who does it affect?

Mostly, young children or anyone who has not developed natural immunity or been vaccinated against measles. Babies up to six months are usually protected by their mother's antibodies IF the mother has had measles or a measles vaccine.

How do you get measles?

Measles is transmitted through direct contact with an infected person or through the air when the infected person coughs or sneezes. It is so infectious that it can be passed to people who may breathe in the air-borne virus by just entering a room where an individual with measles was coughing up to two hours before.

The signs of Measles



Measles start with a high temperature that can become very high. Other symptoms include:

- **Runny or blocked nose**
- **Red, sore eyes (conjunctivitis)**
- **Ear infection**
- **Diarrhea**

Koplik spots (appear in first few days of illness, usually last for a few days) small greyish blue-white spots (often on a reddened background) that occur on the inside of the cheeks early in the 24-48 hours before the rash stage.



Rash usually starts on head or neck and moves down the body - patient usually feels very ill during first 1-2 days of rash onset. Rash fades from head to neck.

How long do measles last?

Most children are better within 7-10 days. The cough that you can get with measles can last longer than the other symptoms.

How is it spread?

Measles spread when a person that is infected with the measles virus breathes, coughs or sneezes. It is VERY contagious. A person can catch measles by just being in a room where a person with measles has been for up to two hours after that person is gone. A person can catch measles from an infected person even before they have the measles rash.

