

# CDRS

Communicable Disease Reporting System

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE FACT SHEET

# MEASLES

Measles is an acute, highly contagious respiratory disease caused the measles virus.

## Symptoms

Symptoms of measles begin 10-12 days after contact with an infected person. Symptoms appear in two stages and include:

- A first stage with a runny nose, cough, slight fever, and watery red eyes that are sensitive to light.
- On the third to seventh day of illness, a fever may reach 103-105°, and a red, blotchy rash lasting for 4 to 7 days.
- The rash usually begins on the face and then spreads over the entire body.
- Little white spots may also appear on the gums and inside of the cheeks.
- Measles is contagious for about 1 week before to 1 week after the rash begins.

## Transmission

- Measles is spread from person-to-person by infected droplets from the mouth, nose and throat of a person with measles.
- Infected droplets can be spread through the air or directly onto other person's hands and face through coughing and sneezing.
- People who have measles should stay away from others until at least 4 full days have passed since the time the rash first appeared.

## Treatment

- There is no specific treatment for measles.
- Some possible complications include pneumonia, encephalitis, ear infections, and convulsions.

## Prevention

- Measles can be prevented through vaccination.
- Measles vaccine is usually given to toddlers when they are 12 to 15 months of age, and then again at 4 to 6 years of age.
- The measles vaccine is combined with the vaccines for mumps and rubella and is known as the MMR vaccine.

## Additional Information

- People born before 1957 are generally considered immune because they probably had the disease before measles vaccine was widely used.
- Since the introduction of the measles vaccination in 1963, the number of measles cases has decreased to about 100 cases reported annually in the United States.

**All information is general in nature and is not intended to be used as a substitute for appropriate professional advice.**

Franklin County



Board of Health

Report Disease With Ease - 24 hours a day

[www.cdrsinfo.com](http://www.cdrsinfo.com)

Columbus and Franklin County Communicable Disease Reporting System

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