

MEASLES (HARD MEASLES, RUBEOLA)
(Reportable Disease - Report to Local Health Agency)

- IMMUNIZATION:** Refer to current immunization schedule.
- INCUBATION PERIOD:** From 10 days varying from 7-18 days from date of exposure to onset of fever; usually 14 days until rash appears.
- SYMPTOMS:** Patient first develops fever and cold symptoms (cough, runny nose, and/or conjunctivitis). Fever usually reaches 101°F or greater. On the third to seventh day of illness, a blotchy, dark red rash appears, usually beginning on the face and spreading to the rest of the body. Rash lasts 4 to 7 days.
- PERIOD OF COMMUNICABILITY:**
- A highly communicable disease from slightly before beginning of prodromal period to 4 days following appearance of rash. Minimal after 2nd day of rash.
 - If vaccine related - not communicable.
- MODE OF TRANSMISSION:** Airborne by droplet spread, also direct contact with nasal or throat secretions of infected persons. Less commonly, by articles freshly soiled with nose and throat secretions.
- SCHOOL ATTENDANCE:** Exclusion for at least 4 days after appearance of rash.
- CONTACTS/FOLLOW-UP:** When a case of measles occurs in a school or day care, all students' immunization records should be reviewed promptly. Susceptible contacts should be immunized immediately to control spread of the disease. Immunization within 3 days of exposure is strongly recommended for susceptible students or household contacts. Immune globulin may be used within 6 days of exposure for susceptible household or other contacts at high risk of complications or for whom measles vaccine is contraindicated.