



Recognizing Measles

What are the symptoms of measles?

Symptoms usually appear 7-14 days after exposure but can take as long as 21 days.

- High fever and one or more of the following:
 - Cough
 - Runny nose
 - Red watery eyes
 - Rash
 - Small red spots, some of which are slightly raised.
 - Usually appears 2 to 4 days after the fever begins and lasts 5 to 6 days.
 - Begins on the face and moves down the body to the arms and legs.

Ask About:

- Exposure to anyone with measles
- International travel
- Vaccine history

Act immediately if you suspect measles:

- Ensure patient is stable.
- Immediately put a surgical mask on the patient.
- Isolate the patient in an airborne infection isolation room (negative pressure room).
- If none is available, place patient in a private room with a door that closes and keep the mask on the patient the entire time (unless there is a medical contraindication). Keep door closed and do not use the room for at least 2 hours after a suspected measles patient has left the room.
- Permit only staff immune to measles to be near the patient. However, regardless of immunity, staff should use an N95 respirator when entering the room.
- Measles is spread through airborne transmission, therefore, mitigate exposure to other patients in shared airspaces during and for two hours after a suspect measles case has been identified.
- Immediately report suspected measles cases to the local health department.
- Expedite measles serology and virus testing by notifying the local health department to arrange testing at the Wadsworth Center NYS Public Health Laboratory. Use of commercial labs may delay the diagnosis.

Contact your local health department at () - between ___ : ___ a.m.
and ___ : ___ p.m. weekdays, or () - after hours, weekends, and holidays.