

Measles Frequently Asked Questions

North Country Health Consortium offers the following information for signs and symptoms of measles.

Individuals who are not vaccinated or immune, or have questions about their immunization status, are encouraged to contact New Hampshire Division of Public Health Services (NH DPHS) as soon as possible at 603-271-4496 (603-271-5300 after hours) and ask for the public health nurse on call.

Anyone who was potentially exposed and is not immune needs immediate vaccination to help prevent development of measles.



Who gets measles?

Anyone can get measles. The vaccine for measles is called MMR.

How is measles spread?

Measles is highly contagious. It is spread through the air when an infected person sneezes or coughs. The virus remains active and contagious for up to 2 hours, so you can get measles after an infected person has left.

What are the symptoms of measles?

Measles is a serious respiratory illness. It starts with a fever, runny nose, eye redness, and cough. Three to 5 days after symptoms first appear, a rash of red spots appears on the face and then spreads over the entire body.

Is a person with measles contagious before any symptoms appear?

Yes. A person will start being contagious 4 days before a rash appears. They will stop being contagious 4 days after the rash first appears.

How long does it take to catch measles after an exposure?

Symptoms usually appear 10 to 12 days after exposure to the virus. In some cases, symptoms may start as early as 7 days or as late as 21 days after exposure.

Can the measles vaccine protect my child from catching measles?

In the United States, most people have received 2 MMR vaccines by age 6. However, MMR is a live virus vaccine and is not safe for children being treated for cancer.

Can people who are around my child receive the MMR vaccine?

Yes. Caregivers and household members of children being treated for cancer can safely receive the vaccine. Making sure that everyone around your child is up-to-date with the MMR vaccine is the best way to keep your child safe.

What should I do if my child is exposed to measles?

Tell your child's healthcare team as soon as possible. If your child is exposed to someone with measles, a medicine called immune globulin may be used to prevent infection.

How do I get more information?

Information on areas where recent measles cases have been reported can be found on the Centers for Disease Control website: www.cdc.gov/measles.

If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact New Hampshire Division of Public Health Services (NH DPHS) as soon as possible at 603-271-4496 (603-271-5300 after hours) and ask for the public health nurse on call.



North Country
HEALTH CONSORTIUM

603-259-3700

NCHCNH.org

Leading innovative collaboration to improve
the health status of Northern New Hampshire.