

Addressing Concerns about Measles for Educational Settings

1. Why are there more Measles cases in the news lately?

Most people in the U.S. are protected against measles through vaccination. The U.S. may be seeing more cases than usual because more people are travelling and have travelled to or from places where measles is more common.

2. Does Measles pose a health risk to educational settings?

Measles is a serious disease that spreads easily and rapidly. Nine out of ten people who have not had the measles vaccine or the infection before will get measles if they are exposed to the virus. It is an airborne virus and spreads in the air and on surfaces after an infected person breathes, talks, sneezes, or coughs. Getting measles is a serious health risk for students and staff that have never had prior infection or their [Measles, Mumps, and Rubella \(MMR\) or MMR and varicella \(MMRV\) vaccine](#). On campuses where there are high numbers of unvaccinated students and staff, measles can spread very easily and infect large groups of people, resulting in hospitalizations and serious disease in people without previous immunity.

3. What are the symptoms of Measles?

- High Fever (101°F or higher)
- Cough
- Runny nose
- Red, watery eyes
- A rash that starts on the face and spreads to the rest of the body

Measles can cause complications, such as ear infections and diarrhea. It can also cause serious illness, such as pneumonia, encephalitis (swelling around the brain), and even death.

4. What should we do if someone on campus has Measles?

Follow these guidelines when students or staff...

Exclude	<p>Staff, students, or visitors who are <u>confirmed or suspected of having measles</u> must be excluded from campus <u>immediately</u> and may return after 4 days from when their rash started. Note: the day of rash onset is day 0.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minors with a known or suspected case of measles should be placed in a private room with the door closed until they can be picked up by a parent/guardian.• Staff and children 2 years and older should wear well-fitting masks.
Report	<p>Measles is a reportable disease which must be reported immediately upon suspicion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monday-Friday 8:30 am – 5:00 PM, call (213) 351-7880 for the Epidemiologist on Duty• After business hours, call (213) 974-1234 and press 8 for the Administrative Officer on Duty (AOD)



Key Messages:

- Measles is a virus that lives in the nose and throat. It is extremely infectious and spreads easily through the air when an infected person talks, breathes, coughs, or sneezes.
- Measles is a health risk for students or staff that have never had measles or the MMR or MMRV vaccine.
- Vaccination is the best way to prevent getting and spreading measles.
- Public Health is taking steps to prevent the spread of measles in Los Angeles County but needs your help.

Where To Go for More Information?

Immunization Schedules
<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/>

Measles
<http://ph.lacounty.gov/ip/diseases/measles/index.htm>

Vaccine Requirements for School Entry?
<http://www.shotsforschool.org/>

5. How can you prevent the spread of Measles?

Follow these tips to keep your educational community healthy:

Ask students, staff, and visitors to stay up to date with their MMR or MMRV vaccine.

Getting vaccinated is the best way to keep from getting and spreading measles. People should get MMR vaccine if they haven't been vaccinated or don't know if they got the MMR vaccine before.

Ask individuals to call their doctor. People who don't know their measles vaccination status or may have had contact with someone with the measles should call their doctor to be tested for measles immunity or to get the measles containing vaccine. If they're ill, they should call the doctor's office before heading to there so that staff are prepared and take precautions to prevent spread.

Ask staff to know the signs of measles. Campus personnel should familiarize themselves with symptoms of measles so they can identify students or other staff members who may be ill and immediately isolate them and contact the department of public health for guidance; see "Report" section on page 1.

Ask students and staff to stay home when they're sick. Staying home along with covering coughs and sneezes with a sleeve or tissue, washing hands often with soap and water, and not touching your eyes, nose, or mouth, help prevent people from getting and spreading diseases.

6. Where can families get vaccinated?

Individuals can call their doctor to get a MMR or MMRV vaccine, which their insurance may cover. They may also get vaccinated at a pharmacy or at a clinic offering no- or low-cost vaccinations. If individuals do not have health insurance, or a regular healthcare provider, they may visit <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/ip/clinics.htm> or call 2-1-1 for a list of low- or no-cost vaccine clinics.

7. How can we address concerns about Measles within our community?

Emphasize that measles can be prevented with the MMR or MMRV vaccine. Everyone should make sure their immunizations are up to date, which can help protect themselves, their loved ones, and their community.

Let families know that the Los Angeles County Department Public Health works to stop people from getting and spreading disease by:

- Investigating all measles cases in the county to provide case management and identify who has been exposed to the infected person.
- Identifying, checking immunity status, and monitoring symptoms in people who may have had contact with someone with measles to prevent further spread of disease.
- Educating health care providers regarding measles symptoms, diagnosis, and reporting.
- Taking safety measures, such as providing MMR or MMRV vaccine and/or restricting participation in school or work, for unvaccinated people who may have come in contact with measles.