



Recognise,
prevent spread,
and notify

Be vigilant for measles.
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and can be transmitted easily.

For more information:

www.hse.ie
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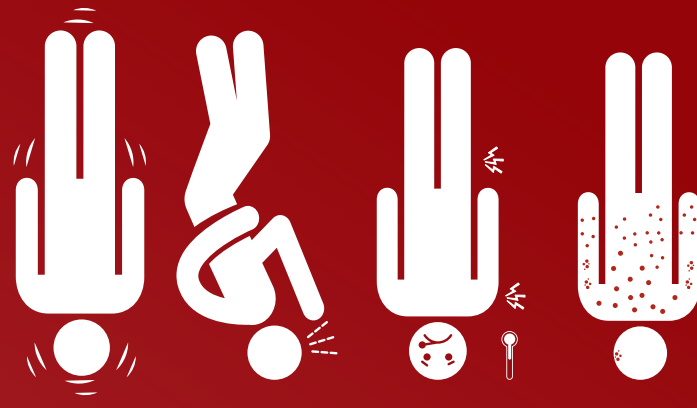
MEASLES

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Measles starts with cold-like symptoms that develop about 10 days after becoming infected. This is followed a few days later by the measles rash. Patients are infectious from 4 days before to 4 days after rash onset.



- How to recognise measles:**
- Incubation period 10-12 days after exposure
 - Prodrome 2-4 days
 - o fever, malaise and loss of appetite
 - o cough, coryza (blocked or runny nose), conjunctivitis
 - o Koplik spots (rash on mucous membranes)
 - o stepwise increase in fever to 39.4°C–40.5°C
 - Rash
 - o 2-4 days after prodrome, 14 days after exposure
 - o persists 5-6 days
 - o begins on face and upper neck
 - o maculopapular, becomes confluent
 - o fades in order of appearance

Runny or blocked nose (coryza) and red, sore eyes (conjunctivitis)



Koplik spots (appear in first few days of illness, usually last for a few days) small greyish-blue-white spots (often on a reddened background) that occur on the inside of the cheeks early in the 24-48 hours before the rash stage.



Rash usually starts on head or neck and moves down the body - patient usually feels very ill during first 1-2 days of rash onset. Rash fades from head to neck



Pictures sourced: CDC Public Health Image Library

What to do if you have a suspected case:

1 Isolate any person who presents to your surgery/hospital with suspected measles. Measles is highly contagious and can remain active and contagious in the air or on infected surfaces for up to 2 hours after a patient leaves your facility.

2 Get laboratory diagnosis.

a. An oral fluid swab (ORACOL®) should be sent to the NVRL as soon as possible after the rash onset.

b. If ORACOL® swabs not available, take a throat swab and serum for antibody testing. Virus can be detected from urine two weeks after rash onset.

3 Record the date of rash onset and the vaccination history on the form when sending sample to the laboratory. https://nvrl.ucd.ie/sites/default/files/uploads/NVRL_Oral_Fluid_Investigation-LFUM001m-4-0-Jan2014.pdf



4 Contact the Department of Public Health in your region as soon as possible if you suspect that a person has measles. http://www.hpsc.ie/NotifiableDiseases/WhoToNotify/File_13160_en.pdf Do not wait for lab test results.

5 If the patient is sent home, advise that the patient should remain at home until at least 4 days after rash onset so as to prevent infection spreading