



## NOTES

### **CASE DEFINITION - MEASLES**

As in the document entitled *Case Definitions for Notifiable Diseases, Infectious Diseases (Amendment) (No.3) Regulations 2003 (SI No. 707 of 2003)*

#### **Clinical Description**

Clinical picture compatible with measles i.e.

- A generalised erythematous maculopapular rash lasting >3 days and
- A temperature >38.0°C and
- One or more of the following: cough, coryza (rhinitis), Koplik's spots or conjunctivitis

#### **Laboratory Criteria for Diagnosis of Measles**

- Detection of measles IgM antibody in absence of recent vaccination, or
- 4 fold or higher rise in measles IgG antibody level in absence of recent vaccination, or
- Detection of measles virus (not vaccine strains) in a clinical specimen

#### **Case Classification**

**Possible:** Clinically compatible cases

**Confirmed:** A case that is laboratory confirmed or a clinically compatible case that is epidemiologically linked to a laboratory confirmed case. A laboratory-confirmed case does not need to meet the clinical case definition.

#### **A measles case is epidemiologically linked if:**

- There was exposure to a laboratory confirmed case during the infectious period (four days before to four days after rash onset) and
- This exposure occurred within the expected incubation period of the case under investigation – 7-18 days (mean: 14 days) before rash onset (Chin 2000)

#### **PREVENTABLE CASES OF MEASLES**

A preventable case of measles is defined as infection in a person diagnosed with measles who fulfils all the following criteria:

- Was born after 1978 and
- Lacks documented evidence of age appropriate vaccination against measles;
- Has no documented episode of confirmed measles previously
- Has no medical contraindication to receiving the vaccine.

A case is classified as non-preventable if the person does not meet these criteria.