



Department of
Health

What to do: Measles Exclusion

If someone with measles was at a K-12 school while they were infectious, other students who do not have two measles vaccinations (or other appropriate documentation as outlined in the [Director's Journal Entry](#)) must be excluded from school. Exclusion means students cannot attend in-person school or any extracurricular school activities, clubs, or sports. Follow instructions from local public health contacts about when students can return to attending these activities. Questions may be directed to _____ [insert LHD] at _____ [insert phone number].

How long?

Students must be excluded for 21 days after the onset of the most recent case in the school. The exclusion period can be extended if additional cases are identified.

If a student was previously unvaccinated and receives a dose of measles vaccine within 72 hours of the **first** exposure, they may be readmitted to school. However, these students should monitor for signs and symptoms of measles (e.g., cough, congestion, red or itchy eyes, rash, or fever).

Students who previously received one dose of measles vaccine can return to school once they receive their second dose. Doses of measles vaccine must be separated by at least 28 days.

Symptom Monitoring

- Use a thermometer to check for fever twice a day, once in the morning and once at night and record the temperature.
- Monitor for symptoms such as:
 - o Fever over 100.4 degrees.
 - o Cough.
 - o Congestion.
 - o Conjunctivitis (red, painful, or itchy eyes).
 - o Rash.

If symptoms develop, call a healthcare provider immediately. Before arriving at any healthcare facility, call ahead and inform them that there was an exposure to measles and symptoms have developed. This will help the healthcare facility provide care while protecting other patients. If your local health department has been contacting you for daily symptom monitoring, be sure to also let them know that symptoms have developed.

Vaccination provides the best protection against infection. Once exclusion is over, consider getting the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine to provide future protection against these diseases.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) About Measles Exclusion

What is exclusion?

Exclusion from school means not attending in-person school, extracurricular activities, clubs, or sports activities and events. Exclusion is necessary to prevent the spread of the measles virus within schools. School exclusion is described in Section 3313.671 of the Ohio Revised Code and [Director's Journal Entry \(DJE\)](#). Students should monitor for signs and symptoms of measles (e.g., cough, congestion, red or itchy eyes, rash, or fever) for 21 days after their last exposure.

If my child was exposed to measles, can they spread it to others in my household?

Measles can spread before someone knows they are sick. Therefore, you should limit contact among your household. If people in your household are not yet protected against measles, they should consider getting vaccinated.

Do my household members need to be vaccinated?

Household members who are protected against measles from previous vaccination or prior disease do not need additional doses of vaccine. Household members who are not protected should consider getting vaccinated to provide protection against disease. If your child becomes sick with measles, other household members who are not protected would then need to quarantine.

How does measles spread?

When an infected person talks, coughs or sneezes, the virus is released into the air and enters another person's body through the nose, mouth, or throat. People can also become sick if they come in direct contact with the mucus or saliva (spit) from an infected person. Measles virus can live for up to two hours on a surface or in the air where the infected person coughed or sneezed. If other people breathe the contaminated air or touch the contaminated surface, then touch their eyes, noses, or mouths, they can become infected.

How can I avoid the spread of measles in my household?

Hands should be washed often with soap and water, especially after coughing, sneezing, blowing the nose, or handling items such as tissues, diapers, and used masks. If other individuals living in the home are not protected against measles, you may be able to reduce the risk that they become sick by having the household member who was exposed or is ill stay in a designated room, avoid contact where possible, and wear a mask in common spaces.

What do I do if my child get sick?

If your child becomes sick with measles-like symptoms, including fever, rash, runny nose, cough, or "pink eye", contact your healthcare provider. Even if the reason for your medical visit is not related to measles symptoms, it is important to call ahead before arriving at any healthcare facility and inform them there has been an exposure to measles and what symptoms are occurring, so that they can take precautions to keep others from being exposed. You will also need to notify the local health department in the jurisdiction where you live. If the health department and medical team think that symptoms could be measles, your child will need to isolate away from other people for four days after the day the rash started. The health department may also ask who your child has been in contact with, what public places they've visited, and where they may have traveled recently before their rash appeared.