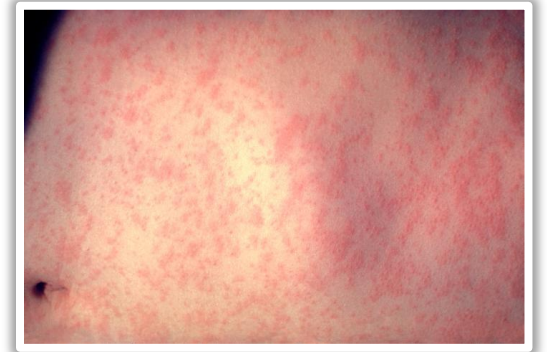




Measles

[Measles](#) is a highly contagious virus that lives in the nose and throat mucus of an infected person. It can spread to others through coughing or sneezing and can live for up to two hours in an airspace. If other people breathe the contaminated air or touch the infected surface, then touch their eyes, noses, or mouths, they can become infected. Measles is so contagious that if one person has it, 90% of the people close to that person who are not immune will also become infected.



The symptoms of measles generally appear about seven to 14 days after a person is infected. Measles starts with fever, runny nose, cough, red eyes, and sore throat. It's followed by a rash that spreads over the body, commonly starting on the head and moving down the body. Measles can cause serious health complications and even death.

Children younger than 5 years of age and adults older than 20 years of age are at high risk of getting a serious case of measles. About 1 in 4 unvaccinated people in the U.S. who get measles will be hospitalized; 1 out of every 1,000 people with measles will develop brain swelling (encephalitis); and 1 or 2 out of 1,000 people with measles will die, even with the best care. There is no cure for measles. The [measles vaccine](#) is very effective and is the best way to prevent an infection. One dose of measles vaccine is about 93% effective at preventing measles if exposed to the virus and two doses are about 97% effective.