

Measles Isolation Guidelines

When and how long to isolate

Measles Exposure

Measles is spread person-to-person when an infected person coughs or sneezes. This virus is extremely contagious because particles are very small and stay in the air for up to two hours after a contagious person has been in an area. Because it is airborne, it can spread between rooms of a building via the air duct system.

When a person with no immunity through immunization or prior infection is exposed to measles virus, the probability of contracting disease is very high – over 90% for a single encounter. A single person with measles spreads disease to an average of 18 other people if those people are not immune due to immunization or prior infection.

Those With Measles

People with suspect measles cases should be:

Roomed/isolated immediately, in a negative pressure room if possible. The room should not be used for the two hours following the patient's occupation of the room. Suspect cases should be kept away from vulnerable people, such as infants under one year old. If possible, test suspect measles cases outside and advised to ISOLATE AT HOME until test results are back. They should not attend school or child care during this time.

If you think you have measles, do NOT enter your health care provider's office without calling ahead!

Those Exposed to Measles

NEED to **quarantine** (stay home):

- People who have NOT had any doses of measles vaccine
- People who are NOT immune to measles through prior infection

Do NOT need to **quarantine** (stay home):

- People who had had one or more doses of measles vaccine
- People who are immune to measles from prior infection
- People who were born before 1957
- People who received a measles vaccine within 72 hours of their first exposure

Questions? Don't be afraid to ask your health care provider!