

What is Measles?

- A respiratory disease and rash illness caused by the Rubeola virus. Anyone who has not had a confirmed case or who has not been given a Measles vaccine is at risk.

What are symptoms that could occur?

- Hard, dry cough
- Watery or red eyes
- Appears red, raised, blotchy; starts on face, spreads to trunk, arms and legs
- Tiny white spots on the inner cheeks, gums, and roof of the mouth surrounded by redness
- Fever which rises when rash appears (101°F or higher)

How is it spread?

- Easily spread by droplets from the nose, throat and mouth through sneezing, coughing and speaking
- Symptoms usually begin 8 – 12 days after exposure

Is it contagious?

- Highly contagious, virus stays in the air for up to three hours
- A person can spread measles up to 4 days before and 4 days after the rash appears

How is it diagnosed and treated?

- Primary care provider evaluation including laboratory work to confirm diagnosis
- Treatment includes bed rest for at least 4 days after the rash appears

How can measles be prevented?

- Measles vaccine is effective in preventing the disease and is part of the MMR series
- Pregnant women should not receive live vaccine
- All susceptible women of child-bearing age should keep out of contact with those who have measles

Are there complications?

- Otitis media
- Pneumonia
- Encephalitis (swelling of the brain) is rare, but serious
- Loss of fetus during pregnancy

Should the sick individual be isolated?

- Yes. Measles is highly contagious.

Are there reporting requirements?

- Report suspected and/or confirmed cases IMMEDIATELY to the GCHD at **257-1017**.

When can the individual return to the general population?

- Upon recovery of symptoms with a minimum 7 days

Should facilities do special cleaning?

- Special cleaning is not necessary. Routine cleaning with EPA approved products is recommended.

If I have any other questions, whom can I contact?

- Call the Genesee County Health Department at 257-1017