

# Measles

**Measles** is a highly contagious infectious disease caused by the measles virus.<sup>[3][9]</sup> Symptoms usually develop 10–12 days after exposure to an infected person and last 7–10 days.<sup>[6][7]</sup> Initial symptoms typically include fever, often greater than 40 °C (104.0 °F), cough, runny nose, and inflamed eyes.<sup>[3][4]</sup> Small white spots known as Koplik's spots may form inside the mouth two or three days after the start of symptoms.<sup>[4]</sup> A red, flat rash which usually starts on the face and then spreads to the rest of the body typically begins three to five days after the start of symptoms.<sup>[4]</sup> Complications occur in about 30% of cases and may include diarrhea, blindness, inflammation of the brain, and pneumonia, among others.<sup>[6][10]</sup> Rubella, which is sometimes called German measles, and roseola are different diseases caused by unrelated viruses.<sup>[11]</sup>

Measles is an airborne disease which spreads easily through the coughs and sneezes of infected people.<sup>[6]</sup> It may also be spread through contact with saliva or nasal secretions.<sup>[6]</sup> Nine out of ten people who are not immune and share living space with an infected person will catch it.<sup>[10]</sup> People are infectious to others from four days before to four days after the start of the rash.<sup>[10]</sup> Most people do not get the disease more than once.<sup>[6]</sup> Testing for the measles virus in suspected cases is important for public health efforts.<sup>[10]</sup>

The measles vaccine is effective at preventing the disease, and is often delivered in combination with other vaccines.<sup>[6]</sup> Vaccination has resulted in a 75% decrease in deaths from measles between 2000 and 2013, with about 85% of children worldwide being currently vaccinated.<sup>[6]</sup> Once a person has become infected, no specific treatment is available,<sup>[6]</sup> but supportive care may improve outcomes.<sup>[6]</sup> This may include giving oral rehydration solution (slightly sweet and salty fluids), healthy food, and medications to control the fever.<sup>[6][7]</sup> Antibiotics may be used if a secondary bacterial infection such as pneumonia occurs.<sup>[6]</sup> Vitamin A supplementation is also recommended in the developing world.<sup>[6]</sup>

Measles affects about 20 million people a year,<sup>[3]</sup> primarily in the developing areas of Africa and Asia.<sup>[6]</sup> No other vaccine-preventable disease causes as many deaths.<sup>[12]</sup> In 1980, 2.6 million people died of it,<sup>[6]</sup> and in 1990, 545,000 died; by 2014, global vaccination programs had reduced the number

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<b>Synonyms</b>	Morbilli, rubeola, red measles, English measles <sup>[1][2]</sup>
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A child showing a day-four measles rash

<b>Specialty</b>	Infectious disease
<b>Symptoms</b>	Fever, cough, runny nose, inflamed eyes, rash <sup>[3][4]</sup>
<b>Complications</b>	Pneumonia, seizures, encephalitis, subacute sclerosing panencephalitis <sup>[5]</sup>
<b>Usual onset</b>	10–12 days post-exposure <sup>[6][7]</sup>
<b>Duration</b>	7–10 days <sup>[6][7]</sup>
<b>Causes</b>	Measles virus <sup>[3]</sup>
<b>Prevention</b>	Measles vaccine <sup>[6]</sup>
<b>Treatment</b>	Supportive care <sup>[6]</sup>
<b>Frequency</b>	20 million per year <sup>[3]</sup>
<b>Deaths</b>	73,400 (2015) <sup>[8]</sup>