

Current Information about Measles

February 6, 2015

Are there measles cases in Greenfield or Wisconsin?

To date, there are no cases of measles in either Greenfield or Wisconsin. The current measles outbreak has been spreading rapidly in the United States, with 102 confirmed cases of measles in at least 14 states.

How does measles spread?

Measles spreads through the air and is among the most contagious of all viruses. Nearly 90 percent of those exposed to measles will get sick (unless they are protected due to vaccination). Measles is alarming because it can have severe complications, including pneumonia and encephalitis, which can be fatal. Even without complications, the measles virus makes children very sick, with high fevers, a rash and sore eyes. Painful ear infections are also common.

What are the current vaccination rates in Greenfield?

The best protection for high-risk people is a high rate of vaccination in the community. Recent data indicates that the vaccination level for measles is nearly 90 percent among two-year-old children in Greenfield. Though not perfect, the 90 percent level of vaccination is significant because this is the level that public health experts believe provides high levels of immunity to those who cannot be vaccinated – most notably those under 1 year of age. Rates of vaccination within Greenfield schools and daycares are even higher at nearly 98 percent overall.

What does the Health Department recommend?

The Greenfield Health Department recommends that infants should be vaccinated as soon as possible after their first birthday with the Measles-Mumps-Rubella (MMR) vaccine. The measles vaccine is 95 percent effective after the first dose, and 97 percent effective following the second dose. The vaccine is safe, and there is no evidence that the vaccine causes harm. Research in 1998 that linked the vaccine to autism was proven false and was withdrawn.

High-risk adults, especially daycare personnel working with unvaccinated infants, should review their vaccination history to ensure protection against measles. The general rule of thumb is that those born in 1957 or prior likely experienced measles disease in childhood, and do not need further vaccination unless working in healthcare settings.

Where can I find additional information?

Measles disease fact sheets are enclosed in both English and Spanish. We will continue to monitor the situation and will make additional recommendations as necessary. For additional information, please contact a Public Health Nurse at (414) 329-5275.



Measles (Rubeola)

Disease Fact Sheet Series

What is measles?

Measles is a disease caused by measles virus and sometimes referred to as "hard", "red" or "10-day measles".

Who can get measles?

Measles virus can infect any person of any age who has not previously had the disease or measles vaccine.

How is measles spread?

Airborne droplets, from coughing or sneezing, spread the virus. It spreads easily and rapidly.

How soon do symptoms appear after exposure?

It takes from 8-12 days for the cold-like symptoms to appear and 14 days for the rash.

What are the signs and symptoms of measles?

The disease begins with cold-like signs and symptoms including a cough, runny nose, high temperature and red watery eyes. By the second day after onset, a red blotchy rash appears at the hairline and spreads down the body to the arms and legs. The rash disappears in the same order of appearance (head to foot) in about 5-6 days.

How can parents be sure that their child's illness is measles?

The only sure way to determine if an illness is indeed measles is through a blood test.

When and for how long is a person able to spread measles?

Measles can be spread from one day before the onset of cold-like symptoms, through the fourth day of the rash.

What are the complications associated with measles?

Among children with measles, about 10% develop ear infections, about 5% develop pneumonia, about 0.1% (1 per 1000 cases) develop encephalitis (inflammation of the brain that can result in deafness or mental retardation), and about 0.1% to 0.2% (1 to 2 per 1000 cases) die from it.

Is there a treatment for measles?

There is no specific treatment for measles.

Can measles be prevented?

Yes. Measles vaccine (usually given in combination with rubella and mumps vaccine, called measles-mumps-rubella or MMR vaccine) is recommended for all children at 12-15 months of age and again at 4-6 years of age. The 2-doses of vaccine normally provide lifelong immunity.

Does a past infection with measles make a person immune for life?

Yes.

Sarampión (Rubéola)

Serie de hojas informativas de enfermedades

¿Qué es el sarampión?

Sarampión es una enfermedad causada por el virus de la rubéola, a veces llamado "granuja", "roja" o "sarampión de 10 días".

¿Quién contrae el sarampión?

El virus de la rubéola puede infectar a cualquier persona de cualquier edad que no haya tenido antes la enfermedad o la vacuna.

¿Cómo se contagia el sarampión?

Partículas aéreas de la tos o estornudo transmiten el virus. Se contagia fácil y rápidamente.

¿Cuándo aparecen los síntomas después de exponerse?

Toma unos 8-12 días hasta que aparecen los síntomas como de resfrío y 14 días para el salpullido.

¿Cuáles son los signos y síntomas del sarampión?

La enfermedad comienza con signos y síntomas de resfrío incluyendo tos, mocos en la nariz, temperatura alta y ojos rojos y lagrimosos. El segundo día después del inicio, aparece un salpullido rojo pinto en el borde del cabello de la cabeza y se disemina por el cuerpo hacia los brazos y piernas. El salpullido desaparece en el mismo orden en que apareció (de cabeza a pies) en unos 5 a 6 días.

¿Cómo pueden asegurar los padres que la enfermedad que tienen sus hijos es sarampión?

La única manera segura de determinar si la enfermedad es realmente sarampión es mediante análisis de sangre.

¿Cuándo y por cuánto tiempo puede la persona contagiar el sarampión?

El sarampión se puede transmitir desde un día antes del inicio de los síntomas de resfrío hasta el cuarto día del salpullido.

¿Cuáles son las complicaciones asociadas con el sarampión?

Entre los niños con sarampión, más o menos el 10% tiene infección de oídos, más o menos el 5% tiene neumonía, y más o menos 0.1% (1 en 1000 casos) desarrollará encefalitis (inflamación del cerebro que puede causar sordera o retardo mental) y más o menos 0.1% a 0.2% (1 a 2 en 1000 casos) morirá de la enfermedad.

¿Hay tratamiento para el sarampión?

No hay tratamiento específico para el sarampión.

¿Se puede prevenir el sarampión?

Sí. La vacuna contra el sarampión (usualmente en combinación con la vacuna contra rubéola y paperas se llama sarampión, paperas y rubéola ó MMR en inglés) se recomienda a todos los niños de 12 a 15 meses de edad y nuevamente a los 4 a 6 años de edad. Las dos dosis de la vacuna normalmente proveen inmunidad por vida.

¿Queda inmune por vida una persona que ha tenido antes infección de sarampión?

Sí