

Ulster County Department of Health Measles Outbreak Fact Sheet

⇒ **INCIDENT** – a case of measles has been confirmed within a school in Ulster County and UCDOH is collaborating with the NYS DOH, school officials and public and private health care entities to minimize the chances of contagion.

⇒ **BACKGROUND:**

- Measles is a highly contagious viral disease that can be very serious.
- As a result of widespread immunization, measles virus does not circulate in the US. All reported cases of measles in the US have been brought in from other countries
- Measles is usually considered a childhood disease, however, it can be contracted at any age by a person who has not previously had the disease or have not been vaccinated.
- Unvaccinated individuals are 22 times more likely to get measles.
- Persons who have previously had measles are immune.

⇒ **SYMPTOMS INCLUDE:**

- A blotchy rash
- Fever
- Cough
- Runny nose
- Red, water eyes (conjunctivitis)
- Feeling run down, achy
- Tiny white spots with bluish-white centers found inside the mouth

Symptoms usually appear in 10-12 days, although they may appear as early as 7 days or as late as 18 days.

⇒ **TRANSMISSION:** An individual is able to **transmit** measles from 4 days prior and 4 days after the onset of a rash.

⇒ **COMPLICATIONS** occur in up to 30% of all cases (especially younger than 5 – older than 20). Can include: Pneumonia, Encephalitis, middle ear infection, diarrhea and seizures, miscarriage and birth defects.

⇒ **TREATMENT**: there is no specific treatment for measles.

⇒ **PREVENTION**: there is an effective vaccine for measles and in NYS all children enrolled in pre-K programs and schools are required to get immunized. Maintaining high levels of immunization in the community is critical to controlling the spread of measles.

**** Vaccinations can also be effective up to 72 hours after initial contact.*

IF YOU NOTICE MEASLES SYMPTOMS IN YOUR FAMILY, CONTACT YOUR DOCTOR IMMEDIATELY AND KEEP THAT PERSON AT HOME - AND AS ISOLATED AS POSSIBLE.

QUESTIONS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CAN BE DIRECTED TO THE UCDOH COMMUNICABLE DISEASE DIVISION AT 340-3090. MORE INFORMATION IS ALSO AVAILABLE ONLINE AT THE FOLLOWING:

Centers for Disease Control:

<http://www.cdc.gov/measles/about/index.html>

NYS Department of Health:

http://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/measles/fact_sheet.htm

INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY AND IS NOT INTENDED TO BE A SUBSTITUTE FOR PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL ADVICE. MEASLES IS A VERY SERIOUS MEDICAL CONDITION AND A DOCTOR SHOULD BE CONSULTED IMMEDIATELY IF SYMPTOMS ARE PRESENT OR IF ONE SUSPECTS A MEASLES INFECTION.