



DCHHS

Dallas County Health and Human Services

Healthy People Healthy Communities
Health and Social Equity



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) About Measles for Parents and Guardians

1. What is measles?

Measles is a highly contagious viral disease that spreads through coughing, sneezing, and even breathing. The virus can remain in the air and on surfaces for up to two hours after an infected person leaves the area.

2. How serious is measles?

Measles can cause severe health complications, including pneumonia, brain swelling (encephalitis), and even death. Tragically, Texas has recently reported the first death of a child from measles during the current outbreak.

3. What are the symptoms of measles?

Symptoms usually appear 7 to 14 days after exposure and include:

- High fever
- Cough
- Runny nose
- Red, watery eyes
- A red rash that starts on the face and spreads down the body

If your child develops these symptoms, keep them home and call your healthcare provider before going to a clinic or hospital to avoid exposing others.

4. Why is vaccination important?

The Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) vaccine is safe, highly effective, and the best protection against measles. Two doses provide 97% protection against the virus. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends children receive one dose of MMR at 12 to 15 months of age and another at 4 to 6 years.

5. What should I do if my child is not vaccinated?



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Check your child's vaccination records today. If they have not received two doses of the MMR vaccine, contact your pediatrician or a local health clinic to schedule an appointment as soon as possible.

6. What happens if there is a measles case at my child's school?

If a confirmed measles case occurs at school, DCHHS will take immediate public health action, which includes:

- Unvaccinated students who have been exposed will be required to stay home for up to 21 days. This is to prevent further spread.
- Parents of unvaccinated children will be advised to seek immediate medical evaluation for their child.

7. If my child is vaccinated, do they need to stay home?

No. Fully vaccinated children (with two doses of MMR) do not need to be excluded from school unless they show symptoms of measles.

8. How long does school exclusion last for unvaccinated children?

Unvaccinated children who have been exposed to measles may need to stay home for up to 21 days, depending on guidance from health officials. This exclusion period is necessary because measles can take that long to develop after exposure.

9. Will my child be able to do schoolwork from home during exclusion?

Each school may have different policies for at-home learning during exclusion. Please contact your child's school to discuss options for staying on track academically.

10. Where can I get my child vaccinated?

The MMR vaccine is available through your pediatrician, local pharmacies, and community health clinics. DCHHS also provides vaccinations. Visit

<https://www.dallascounty.org/departments/dchhs/communicable-diseases/measles.php> or contact DCHHS at (972) 692-2780.