

# Preparing for and Responding to Measles in Your Child Care

Measles can spread quickly in a child care setting and can cause serious illness. Infants who are too young to be vaccinated and children with other health conditions are at high risk for severe disease. The most important step you can take is to ensure children and staff are vaccinated with the measles, mumps, rubella (MMR) vaccine. The MMR vaccine is safe and effective at preventing measles disease.

## How to prepare

- Ensure children are vaccinated with the MMR vaccine or have a legal exemption on file.
- Encourage staff to confirm they have received the MMR vaccine or have immunity to measles and encourage them to receive the MMR vaccine if they know they have not yet received one.
- Save immunization and exemption records for all children and make sure these records are current and easy to look up.
  - [The Minnesota Immunization Information Connection \(MIIC\) \(www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/miic/participate/childcare.html\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/miic/participate/childcare.html) is a tool that can assist you when gathering immunization records.
- Inform families of unvaccinated children and unvaccinated staff that they may need to stay home for up to 21 days each time they are near someone who has measles.
- Know the signs and symptoms of measles.
  - [Measles \(Rubeola\) \(www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/measles/measlesfacts.html\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/measles/measlesfacts.html)

## Steps to take if there has been a person with measles at your child care center

Child care providers are required to let the Minnesota Department of Health know right away if someone with measles has been at their child care.

1. Contact MDH if someone with measles may have been at your child care by calling **651-201-5414** or **877-676-5414**.
2. Follow **all** instructions given to you by MDH or Local Public Health (LPH) staff.
3. Review the attendance records for all children that attended your center during the time the person with measles may have been at your center and track the:
  - Child's/staff first and last name
  - Parents' first and last names (for children only)
  - Address
  - Phone number
  - Date of birth
  - Days the child normally attends your center
  - Classroom of the child
  - MMR vaccination date (if applicable)
4. If MDH has confirmed the person did have measles and they were sick while at your center, you may need to share the information gathered during step 3 with MDH or LPH.

5. Let MDH know if anyone else who has been in your child care becomes sick with measles.
6. Enforce the public health recommendations for people that MDH has determined may have been near a person with measles and could potentially spread measles to other people.

Depending on the situation, people who have not been vaccinated with any doses of MMR and have been near someone with measles may be asked to remain home for up to 3 weeks.

## Additional resources

- [MIIC and Child Cares \(www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/miic/participate/childcare.html\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/miic/participate/childcare.html)
- [Child Care Providers Immunization Reporting \(www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/ed/childcare.html\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/ed/childcare.html)
- [Measles Information \(www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/measles/basics.html\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/measles/basics.html)

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*To obtain this information in a different format, call: 651-201-5414.*