MEASLES:
Important considerations

suspect | report | confirm | prevent

- Measles is a highly infectious respiratory illness that is spread through coughs, sneezes, and breathing.
- The measles virus can linger in the air for 2 hours or more after an ill person has left the space.
- There are multiple outbreaks of measles occurring around the United States, including Montana.

WHO'S AT RISK

- Babies who are too young for vaccine (<12 months)
- Immunocompromised people
- Unimmunized pregnant women
- Unvaccinated people

INCUBATION

Average: **14 days**
(range 7-21 days)

SYMPTOMS

- High fever (up to 104 F)
- Runny nose
- Cough
- Red, watery eyes
- Rash (spreads from head to toe)
- Koplik spots (sometimes)

Measles complications can include: pneumonia, encephalitis, and/or death

How infectious is measles? **One person can infect 12-18 susceptible people**

RISK FACTORS

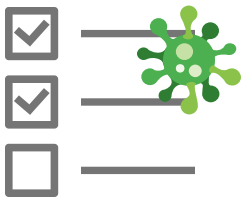
Travel to a place where measles is endemic or an outbreak is occurring

Contact with someone who has measles

Not receiving a measles vaccine (MMR)

Visitors from areas where measles is occurring

SUSPECT



Evaluate signs and symptoms and risk factors to determine **if measles is high on the suspicion list.**

REPORT

Measles is **immediately reportable** to local public health. Reporting should not wait until lab results are available. If you suspect measles, report it ASAP.

CONFIRM

A diagnosis of measles is confirmed by prompt laboratory testing. **The gold standard** is PCR and can be performed as soon as possible following rash onset. This should be paired with a blood test that detects IgM antibody production.

PREVENT

The measles vaccine (MMR) is extremely effective against preventing the disease in those who are >12 months of age. **Two doses of MMR are 97% effective.**

For more information, contact your local health department

Public Health in the 406 — Montana Communicable Disease Epidemiology