

# MEASLES

## QUICK FACTS

**FACT:** Measles can be easily prevented with a safe vaccine.

**FACT:** Measles causes a fever and rash, but can also cause other health problems like pneumonia, seizures and infections of the brain, or death. Fatal complications can develop years after infection and apparent recovery.

**FACT:** Measles can be serious for people of all ages. But infants and young children, expectant mothers, people with weakened immune system, and other people who are not immune to measles are most at risk.

**FACT:** If you choose not to vaccinate your child, you put other people's lives at risk.

## Q & A

### What is measles?

Measles is a virus that causes fever and rash; it can be deadly.

### Who can get measles?

Anyone can get measles at any age.

### How do you prevent measles?

- With a vaccine - it's very safe and effective
- Children typically get the vaccine after their first birthday. Two doses of the vaccine are needed before children enter school.

### How is it spread?

- When someone with measles sneezes or coughs, people can breathe in the virus for up to two hours afterward and may get measles.
- Measles is very contagious - if one person has it, 90% of the people around them will also get measles if they aren't vaccinated or immune.

### What are the symptoms?

Symptoms include high fever, cough, runny nose, and red or watery eyes. A rash of red spots appears three to five days later. Measles can be spread up to four days before and four days after a rash appears.

### How do you treat measles?

Measles cannot be treated with a specific medicine. Some symptoms - like fever - can be treated with medication.

### Does the vaccine cause autism?

No. Scientific studies have proven there is no link between vaccines and autism.