

MEASLES OUTBREAKS, (see information below) Reminder, in the event of an outbreak locally, any unvaccinated students will require exclusion. We will be following the Ulster County Health Department recommendations if an outbreak occurs.

Measles Outbreaks in the News

- Nationally outbreaks on Texas and Washington State
- Locally:
 - NYC – current count 163
 - Rockland – 146
 - Orange County 10 – none
 - Monroe County – 7
 - Ulster County – none; have had several suspect cases ruled out.
- These outbreaks have affected mostly young children who have not been vaccinated.

This is because measles is extremely contagious – it is transmitted by direct contact with infectious **droplets** from an infected person. However, you don't need to have person to person contact because measles is also **airborne** - spread when an infected person breathes, coughs, or sneezes. Measles remains in the air for up to 2 hours after the infected person leaves the room/area.

Because it is so contagious, a population needs to be upwards of 95% vaccinated to prevent spread of disease (Herd immunity). This level of herd immunity protects those who cannot be vaccinated (infants under 1 year of age, medically compromised individuals).

Measles symptoms commonly include:

- High fever
- Runny nose
- painful spotty rash
- conjunctivitis

An infected person is contagious 4 days before a rash emerges and 4 days afterwards. The person should be isolated/quarantined at home, away from the general population, until the risk of transmission is over.

Can measles be serious? YES! One in 10 children develop ear infections; 1 in 20 develop pneumonia.

Statistically, measles deaths occur at a rate of 2-3/1000 reported cases. And approximately 1/1000 develop encephalitis, which can lead to permanent brain damage.

UCDOH Role

Measles is a 24-hour reportable disease per NYS law – any person who presents at a medical office or facility with suspect measles should be reported to the local DOH. Anyone seeking medical attention suspected of measles should notify their provider BEFORE coming to the office so that they can be brought in through a separate entrance so that others are not exposed.

We work with providers to provide guidance in appropriate testing and we facilitate getting lab specimens to the NYS lab (Wadsworth). We refer providers to NYSDOH Outbreak Control Guidelines.

We encourage everyone to know their measles vaccine or immune status. If you are not sure, you can request a titer be drawn to check your immune status.