

Infection Prevention and Control and Occupational Health Services

Measles Staff Fact Sheet

What is it?

Measles is a highly contagious, acute viral respiratory illness. It is characterized by a prodrome (before the onset of rash) of fever and malaise, cough, runny nose, conjunctivitis and, grey-white spots in the mouth, followed by a maculopapular (red, raised) rash which spreads from the head down.

Symptoms develop between 7 to 21 days after exposure but typically appear around day 10.

People are infectious from 4 days before the rash appears until about 4 days after the onset of the rash.

Serious complications can occur in children, pregnant women and persons with weak immune systems. 1 in 3 children develop complications and 7 of 10 persons with transplantation or cancer may end up dying.

How is it spread?

It is spread through the air and if you have never had measles infection or vaccine you have a 90% chance of developing measles after being in the same room as an infected person as little as 5 minutes

How do I prevent spread to others?

Measles is a <u>vaccine-preventable disease</u>, and all healthy age-eligible children and adults should be vaccinated to prevent spread to persons at risk for complications who may not be able to be, or choose not to be, immunized. All healthcare workers should have 2 documented doses of measles-containing vaccines, or serologic proof of immunity to be considered protected, regardless of the year of birth.

If you are unsure of your status, you are welcome to contact Occupational Health Services to review your records and update if required.

While in hospital, for those suspected or known to have measles, airborne precautions, in a private room under negative pressure is required. If a negative pressure room is not available, a private room with portable HEPA filtration unit and with the door closed is required.

Terminal clean is required:

 A 2 hour fallow time (time required for air circulation in the room to clear the room of viral particles) is required before admission of a non-immune patient.



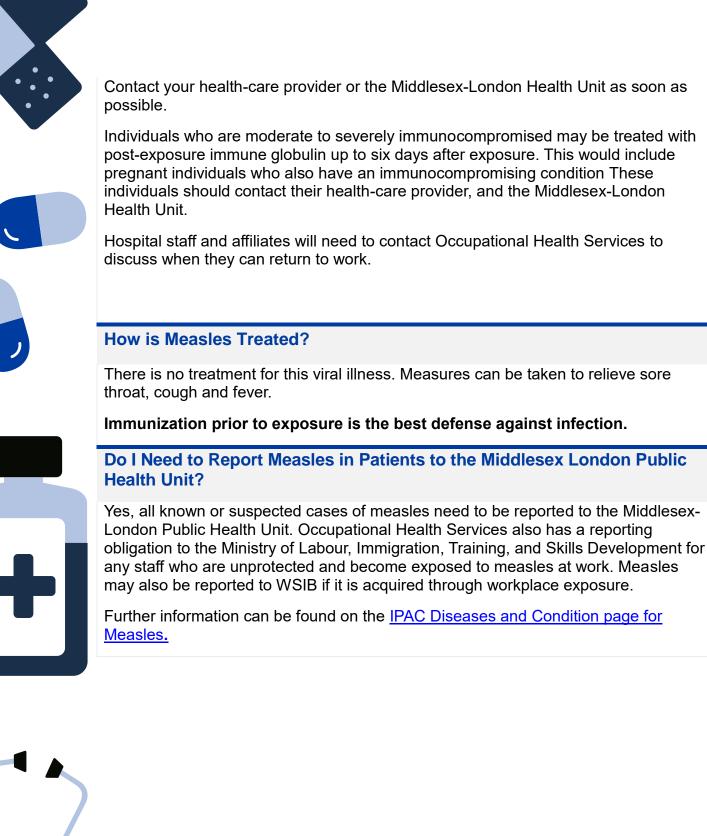












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