

Preparing for and Responding to Measles in Your Childcare

Measles can spread quickly in a childcare setting and can cause serious illness. Unvaccinated children and staff are at risk for serious disease, especially children 5 years of age and younger, pregnant people, and people with weakened immune systems. 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. Childcares in Minnesota can now have a policy to not accept non-medical exemptions.
- Encourage staff to confirm they have received the MMR vaccine or have immunity to measles. If they know they aren't immune to measles encourage them to receive the MMR vaccine.
- Save immunization and exemption records for all children and make sure these records are current and easy to look up.
 - As a Rule 2 provider you can request copies of your enrollee's MIIC immunization records by contacting the MIIC Help Desk at health.miichelp@state.mn.us with your DHS Rule 2 license number.
- 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 childcare

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

1. Contact MDH if someone with measles may have been at your childcare 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
 - Date of birth
 - Parents' first and last names (for children only)
 - Days the child normally attends your childcare
 - Address
 - MMR vaccination date (if applicable)
 - Phone number

4. If MDH has confirmed the person did have measles and they were sick while at your childcare, 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 childcare 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

- [Measles Information \(www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/measles/basics.html\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/measles/basics.html)

Minnesota Department of Health
PO Box 64975, St. Paul, MN 55164-0975
651-203-5503
www.health.state.mn.us/immunize

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