

# Measles:

## What Parents Need to Know



### ? What is Measles?

Measles is a highly contagious virus that spreads through the air when someone coughs or sneezes. It starts like a cold—fever, cough, runny nose, red eyes—then a rash appears.

### ! Why It's Serious:

Measles can cause ear infections, pneumonia, brain swelling, and even death—especially in young kids, pregnant women, and people with weak immune systems.

### ☼ How It Spreads:

- Through the air and on surfaces
- Contagious 4 days before and after the rash
- It can linger in a room for 2 hours

### 💉 The MMR Vaccine Works!

- 2 doses = 97% protection
- Safe and effective
- First dose at 12–15 months
- Second dose at 4–6 years



### Check Your Child's Records:

Call your provider, check with your school nurse, or visit

**[www.myvaxrecords.mass.gov](http://www.myvaxrecords.mass.gov)**



## Stay Protected. Get Vaccinated.

More info: [www.mass.gov/info-details/measles](http://www.mass.gov/info-details/measles)