

Public Health Preparedness Newsletter

January 10, 2024

Measles Outbreak

(Para leer este boletín en español, visite <https://hip.phila.gov/disease-control/diseasesconditions/measles/>.)

This is an active response. For the latest updates, visit <https://bit.ly/Measles2024PHL>.

Measles is a dangerous virus, especially for babies and young children.

- It is spread through the air when someone who has measles coughs, sneezes, talks, or even just breathes. Germs can stay in a room for two hours after someone with measles has left.

Fortunately, Philadelphia has high community immunity.

- At least 93% of children are fully vaccinated against measles by age 6.
- However, about 90% of unvaccinated people who have close contact with an infected person will get measles.
 - Children younger than 5 years of age and adults older than 20 years of age are more likely to suffer from complications.
- Measles spreads more easily than other respiratory viruses. You can get infected and pass measles on to other people even before you have a rash.
 - This is why it is so important anyone who thinks they have been exposed stay home and contact a healthcare provider for next steps.

PDPH strongly recommends anyone who may have been exposed to measles should quarantine themselves by staying home and away from others and contact their health provider to find out next steps.

Philadelphia locations and exposure dates are updated here: <https://bit.ly/Measles2024PHL>

- Please check the list in this link to see if you have been exposed.
- Use this link to learn if you are immune to measles, to find the measles vaccine (MMR) and receive updates on this response in real time.

If you or your child aren't vaccinated, get vaccinated immediately.

- Find the measles vaccine here: <https://bit.ly/PhilaMeasles>

Some people ARE immune to measles.

- People ARE immune to measles if they:
 - Were born before 1957.
 - Have already had measles.
 - Have received two doses of measles-containing vaccine (usually given as measles, mumps, and rubella — or MMR — vaccine) and are not immune-compromised.

- If you ARE immune to measles and think you have been exposed:
 - There is nothing you need to do.
 - Please contact your healthcare provider if you have any questions.

Some people ARE NOT immune to measles.

- People ARE NOT immune to measles if they:
 - Were born after 1957 and have never been sick with measles and are not vaccinated.
 - Infants under the age of 12–15 months typically have not been vaccinated yet and are not immune to measles.
- **If you or your child ARE NOT immune to measles:**
 - Please take precautions to prevent the spread of this disease:
 - Check if you have been exposed here: <https://bit.ly/Measles2024PHL>
 - Contact your healthcare provider or pediatrician right away, especially if you don't feel well. Tell your doctor about your possible measles exposure.
 - Alert your healthcare provider before visiting. Tell them that you've been exposed to measles and ask them to call the health department.
 - Stay home if you think you have been exposed.
 - You could give measles to vulnerable people, so you must quarantine.
 - The virus will spread quickly if people go out when they were asked to quarantine.

The measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine (MMR) is your best protection against measles.

- MMR vaccine is very safe and nearly 100% effective.
- To find the MMR vaccine:
 - First, contact your healthcare provider for a vaccine.
 - The vaccine is available for adults with insurance at many retail pharmacies like CVS and Rite Aid.
 - The vaccine is available for free at each of the City's Health Centers for all Philadelphia residents of any age, without or with insurance: <https://bit.ly/PhilaMeasles>.
 - No ID, cost or insurance are required. Just a piece of mail with your address on it will work.
 - Call 215-685-2933 to set up an appointment.
 - For a limited time, Health Center 3, Health Center 4, and Health Center 5 are also offering walk-in MMR vaccinations to any Philadelphia resident, Monday through Thursday, 10am-12pm (noon) and 1pm-3pm.
 - No appointment needed.

For more information and the latest updates, visit: <https://bit.ly/Measles2024PHL>.

This message was sent to the [Community Response Partner Network](#).

The Community Response Partner Network (CRPN) is a listserv of more than 1,500 community and faith-based leaders who have signed up to receive critical information about public health emergencies to share with their networks and residents.

Sign up to receive future newsletters at <https://bit.ly/CRPNnewsletter>.