



Measles is a viral illness that causes fever and rash. Measles infection can cause serious complications including brain and lung infections. Measles infection also causes death in a small number of people. The South Carolina Department of Public Health (DPH) is working to prevent the spread of the illness to protect those who might suffer from these conditions.

How do I know if I have measles?

Measles illness usually begins with fever. People may also have:

- Cough
- Runny nose
- Red eyes
- Diarrhea

A red rash spreads over the body usually a few days after the fever.

What should I do if I think I have measles?

Measles is spread very easily through the air by people who are infected. People with measles can spread it to others several days before the rash breaks out. If you think you have measles, you should:

- **Stay home** and avoid contact with others when a fever starts.
- **Before seeing the doctor**, call to describe your symptoms and let the doctor know you have been advised about possible exposure to measles. The doctor will help make sure you do not spread measles to other people in the doctor's office.
- **If you do not plan to see the doctor**, please notify DPH at (864) 372-3133 to help track others who might have caught measles.

What will happen after I see the doctor?

Show this letter to your doctor. If your doctor thinks you might have measles, your doctor will order lab tests.

You will be asked to stay home until it has been determined that you cannot spread measles to others.

Why does DPH need to be contacted?

Measles is a very contagious disease. DPH uses control measures to prevent the rapid spread of measles in communities. Certain people are at risk of complications or death from measles. These include:

- Pregnant women
- Infants younger than 1 year old
- People whose immune systems do not work normally

If DPH learns high-risk people may have been exposed to or infected with measles, treatments may be given that may help protect these people from complications. It is very important that DPH tracks everyone who has been exposed to or has developed measles to find people who are at risk.