



CHATTING ABOUT HEALTH

Measles is a highly contagious and potentially serious viral illness.

Before routine vaccines for measles became available, 3 to 4 million people were infected each year. Among those infected, 400 to 500 died and 48,000 were hospitalized.

Common symptoms of measles include:

- high fever
- cough
- runny nose
- red, watery eyes
- rash (3-5 days after symptoms begin)



Measles is very contagious

- It spreads through the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes.
- An infected person can spread measles to others from four days before the rash starts through four days afterward.

Measles can be very serious

- 1 in 5 people in the US with measles will be hospitalized.
- 1 in 1000 people with measles will develop brain swelling which can lead to brain damage.
- As many as 3 in 1000 people with measles will die, even with the best care.



Vaccination is the best way to protect yourself and your family from measles.

Learn more about measles from CDC

<https://www.cdc.gov/measles/index.html>



Thanks to effective vaccines measles was declared eliminated from the US in 2000.

- Measles is still common in many parts of the world.
- Every year, measles is brought into the US by unvaccinated travelers (mostly Americans, sometimes foreign visitors) who get measles while they are in other countries.
- Anyone who is not protected against measles is at risk.

NEWS

UPDATE

As of April 18, there have been 125 measles cases reported in the US in 2024.

- That is more than were reported in all of 2023.
- *There have been no cases reported in Connecticut yet this year.*
- Most of the cases have been associated with 7 separate outbreaks.
- More than 80% of cases were in unvaccinated people.

Learn more about measles cases and outbreaks from CDC

<https://www.cdc.gov/measles/cases-outbreaks.html>



