

**Mission:**

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



**Ron DeSantis**  
Governor

**Joseph A. Ladapo, MD, PhD**  
State Surgeon General

**Vision:** To be the **Healthiest State** in the Nation

January 30, 2026

Dear Health Care Providers and Partners,

Due to the recent increase in measles cases, the Florida Department of Health is emphasizing the importance of identifying suspected cases quickly and taking steps to minimize further transmission. Please review the current guidance on this highly infectious disease.

**Department testing algorithm is attached above for your review.**

Measles is spread through the air by breathing, coughing, or sneezing. It can be transmitted four days before the rash becomes visible to four days after the rash appears. The symptoms of measles generally begin approximately eight to 14 days after a person is exposed to someone with measles, with a range of seven to 21 days.

Symptoms include:

- Fever
- Cough
- Coryza (Runny nose)
- Conjunctivitis (Red, watery eyes)
- Malaise

Typically followed in 3-5 days by:

- Generalized descending maculopapular rash
- Tiny white spots with bluish-white centers found inside the mouth (Koplik's spots)

Providers should consider measles when a patient presents with a combination of a generalized, maculopapular rash lasting longer than three days, temperature greater than 101.0°F (38.3°C), and cough, coryza, and/or conjunctivitis. Expedite patients to a private room to minimize exposure.

Contact your [county health department](#) immediately (24/7) upon suspicion for measles as they can provide additional support and guidance. Recommended testing for suspected cases include both RT-PCR and serology. RT-PCR is only available at certain commercial laboratories and is available at Bureau of Public Health Laboratories after authorization by the county health department.

Thank you for your help in keeping our community safe and healthy.

