



Measles Guidelines for Childcare Facilities

Recently, there has been an increase in measles cases reported in various areas of the country. Childcare facilities are particularly vulnerable to the rapid spread of measles due to close contact among young children. To ensure the health and safety of all children, staff, and families, it is crucial for childcare providers to be familiar with the measles guidelines for childcare facilities.

Signs & Symptoms of Measles:

- High fever (may spike to 104F or higher)
- Cough
- Runny nose
- Red, watery eyes
- Small white spots inside the mouth
- Rash that starts on the face and spreads downward



Scan for more info

Preventing Measles in Childcare Settings:

The most effective way to prevent measles is to ensure all eligible children and staff are vaccinated. Other ways to prevent illness include:

- Promote good hygiene practices—covering coughs and sneezes, frequent handwashing, and cleaning shared surfaces.
- Monitor children and staff for signs and symptoms of illness.
- Maintain up-to-date vaccination records for all children and staff.
- Implement a system to quickly identify children who are not vaccinated, including those with documented exemptions.

Communication with Families:

- Clearly communicate facility policies regarding measles exposure and vaccination requirements.
- Have pre-drafted letters ready to inform families about measles outbreaks.
- Provide families with educational materials on the importance of the Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) vaccine.
 - Resource: [Wisconsin DHS Measles Information for Parents](#)



Exclusion from Childcare:

- Exclude children with suspected or confirmed measles immediately.
- Unvaccinated children should be excluded if there is a confirmed case of measles in the facility.
- Follow local public health guidelines regarding additional exclusions.

Return to Childcare Criteria

- Children or staff with measles may return to childcare when:
 - At least four days have passed since the rash appeared.
 - They have been fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication.
 - Symptoms are improving.
- Unvaccinated children who were excluded due to exposure may return after:
 - The incubation period (typically 21 days) has passed without symptoms, or they receive post-exposure vaccination as advised by health authorities.

Contacting the Health Department:

Childcare providers should contact their local health department immediately if:

- A child or staff member has symptoms of measles.
- There is a suspect or confirmed case of measles at your site.
- A child or staff member has been exposed to someone with measles.
- Guidance is needed about exclusion, return policies, or vaccination requirements related to measles.