

MEASLES

IT'S NOT JUST A RASH



POSITIVE

MEASLES CASE IN THE SCHOOLS

ACTION FLOWCHART

1 CONFIRMED CASE?

Positive test result proved by healthcare provider?

- **Yes** → Proceed to step 2
- **No** → Monitor for symptoms; wait for confirmation

2 NOTIFY SCHOOL HEALTH STAFF

- Notify school administration
- Notify NMDOH
- Determine all possible contacts
 - Measles is contagious 4 days before to 4 days after the onset of a rash

3 VERIFY IMMUNIZATION STATUS

Check if exposed individuals have **2 doses of MMR vaccine**

- **Fully Immunized** Low risk, monitor for symptoms
- **Not fully immunized** Proceed to step 4

4 EXCLUDE & QUARENTINE

- Exclude unvaccinated individuals for **21 days** after the **LAST** confirmed positive case in school
- Refer nonimmunized individuals for MMR vaccine within the first 72 hours after exposure
 - If administered, the individual will **NOT** be excluded from school

5 CLEAN AND DISINFECT

- Clean and disinfect all areas visited by the individual
- Increase ventilation if possible

WHAT IS MEASLES?

Measles is a highly contagious viral illness. Those who have received 2 doses of vaccine are considered to be 97% protected from the virus. However, one person with measles can easily infect 9 out of 10 unvaccinated people (CDC, 2025). The virus is spread through coughing and sneezing. The virus can remain infectious in the air for up to 2 hrs after the infected person leaves the room.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

- High fever
- Cough
- Runny nose
- Red watery eyes
- Rash- flat red spots that start at the hairline and spread downward

EVIDENCE OF IMMUNITY

- Documented 2 doses for school-age children and adults
- Laboratory evidence of immunity
- Laboratory confirmation of measles
- Birth before 1957

It is recommended that all adult school staff who are not, or do not know their status of immunity to measles, seek further medical consultation to prevent the possibility of exclusion in the event of a positive measles case.

