

Measles

Protecting Your Child: What Every Parent Should Know

What is Measles?



Measles is a highly contagious virus that spreads through the air when someone coughs or sneezes.

Measles can cause **high fever (up to 105 F), cough, full-body rash, pneumonia, brain swelling (encephalitis), hearing loss, and even death.**

Who is most vulnerable? Infants, young children, pregnant people, and anyone who is unvaccinated.

i Measles can spread to **9 out of 10 people** who nearby and not protected.



The Vaccine

- First measles vaccine: **1963**
- MMR combination vaccine introduced: **1971**

How it works:

- A **weakened form of the virus** safely teaches the immune system to recognize and fight measles before it causes illness.

Schedule:

- 2 doses
 - First dose at 12-15 months
 - Second dose at 4-6 years
- Mild side effects: low fever, sore arm, mild rash

Is the Vaccine Safe? Yes.

- **Used safely for over 50 years** in the U.S.
- MMR vaccine has been studied in **millions of children** worldwide.
- **No link to autism** - this has been disproven in more than 25 large studies.
- Mild side effects may occur but serious side effects are extremely rare.

Vaccination led to a **99% drop in measles cases** in the U.S.



Support & Guidance

Talk with your pediatrician to review the schedule and ask questions.

Trusted Resources: [AAP HealthyChildren.org](http://AAPHealthyChildren.org)

Alternatives?

- There is **no safe alternative** to vaccination.
- "Natural immunity" may follow infection, but measles can lead to **life-threatening complications** and can decrease immunity to other diseases.
- **Delaying vaccines** leaves your child **unprotected** during the years they are most at risk.



You're doing what parents do best - protecting your child. We're here to answer your questions, support your decisions, and celebrate the protection you give your family.

