



Preparing for Measles in a Child Care Setting

Ensuring the health and safety of attendees, staff, and community members is a top priority for the Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH).

To support prompt public health response to measles, child care settings should **immediately** contact the OSDH Epi-on-Call at 405-426-8710 (available 24/7/365) to report suspect measles or other rash illness concerns. The OSDH can verify whether there is a public health concern prior to initiating a response.

Measles background:

- Measles is a very contagious disease that can cause severe illness, complications and death, especially in children under five years, pregnant women, and people with weakened immune systems.
- Measles can spread quickly in a child care setting when an infected person coughs, talks, or sneezes. The virus can remain in the air for up to two hours after that person leaves the area and can cause other people breathing that air to become infected.
- Infected people can spread the virus four days before their rash starts through four days after the rash appears. Most people do not suspect measles until the rash appears, meaning they could have been spreading the infection for four or more days by the time it's diagnosed.
- Measles is so contagious that one infected person can infect 12 – 18 people who are not protected from measles by immunity (previously vaccinated or previously infected).
- Measles cases in child care settings and other institutions where close contact exists require rapid public health investigation and response. The potential risk of spread is high in settings where a high proportion of students and staff are unvaccinated. Generally, 95% two-dose MMR coverage is needed to reduce the risk of spread.

How to prepare:

- Encourage families of attendees to keep their child age-appropriately vaccinated with the MMR [vaccine](#).
- Encourage staff to verify they have received the MMR vaccine or have immunity to measles (positive IgG serology or positive lab result of a previous infection). Information on how to check immune status can be found [here](#). If they know they aren't immune to measles, encourage them to receive the MMR vaccine.

- You are encouraged to have accurate and up-to-date information on attendees and staff's immune status.
- Communicate information provided in the "Measles background" section with families of unvaccinated children and staff. Resources to assist with this communication can be found on the OSDH [measles webpage](#) or in the "Resource" section within this document.
- Resources to aid in communicating with families of children and staff who have documented age-appropriate doses of MMR, positive IgG serology, positive lab result indicating a previous measles infection (IgM, PCR, viral culture), or born before 1957 can be found on the OSDH [measles webpage](#) or in the "Resource" section within this document.
- Know the [signs and symptoms of measles](#). Review your sick policy.

Steps to take if there has been a person with measles at your child care setting:

Please notify the Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) **immediately** if someone with measles has been at their facility.

1. Contact the Epidemiologist-on-Call (Epi-on-Call) if someone with measles may have been at your child care setting by calling 405.426.8710 (available 24/7/365).
2. Provide name and contact information for the person with measles and any other information the Epi-on-Call deems necessary for the investigation. The Epi-on-Call will use this information to verify the individual truly has measles and was infectious while at the facility. This may require following up with the diagnosing health care provider. The Epi-on-Call will let you know after consultation with the health care provider whether there is a need for a public health investigation.
3. If a public health investigation is necessary, the OSDH will coordinate with you on public messaging to ensure it is accurate and actionable by the attendees' and staff's families.
4. The Epi-on-Call will work with you to determine when the measles case was infectious while at the facility, as well as exposure locations within the facility.
5. Review the attendance records for all attendees and staff during the identified infectious timeframe. For each individual, collect:
 - a. Student/staff first and last name
 - b. Parents' first and last names (for students only)
 - c. Address
 - d. Phone number
 - e. Date of birth
 - f. Classroom of the student/staff or other exposure location
 - g. MMR vaccination date(s) (if applicable)
 - h. Other evidence of immunity (if applicable)

Upon notification from the child care center, the OSDH will provide additional guidance for the ill individual and all exposed individuals.

References:

- [Chapter 7: Measles | Manual for the Surveillance of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases | CDC](#)

Resources:

- [Measles Fact Sheet \(OSDH\) English | Measles Fact Sheet \(OSDH\) Spanish](#)
- [Measles in Schools \(OSDH\) English | Measles In Schools \(OSDH\) Spanish](#)
- [Measles Information and fact sheets \(OSDH\)](#)
- [Measles \(CDC\)](#)
- [Good Health Handbook 623.pdf](#)