

Measles: What Employers Should Know



Knowing a few key things about measles could protect your workers and your bottom line.

Measles is an illness that spreads easily and can make people very sick. Some people die from measles.

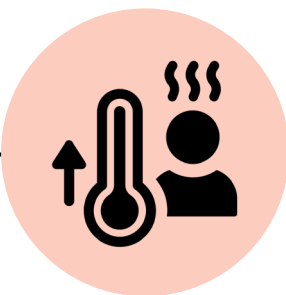
If measles were to affect your farm, factory, or other workplace, many workers could get sick quickly.

If left uncontrolled, it could slow down your operations and spread to workers' families and the local community.

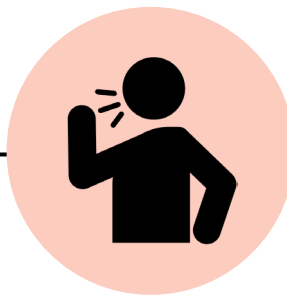
Measles is so infectious that up to **9 out of 10** unvaccinated people will get sick if they are exposed.

You **may be exposed** to measles when you travel or if you have contact with someone who has measles. Local residents who are unvaccinated and have been to places with measles can also put others at risk, including you and other workers.

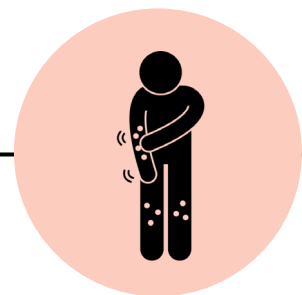
Signs of measles:



High fever



Cough



Rash



Bureau of Communicable Diseases

Wisconsin Department of Health Services | Division of Public Health

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/dph/bcd.htm> | DHSDPHBCD@dhs.wi.gov

Employer Checklist

- ☐ **Vaccination status:** Ask your workers to bring copies of their vaccine records so they can show they are up to date on their measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine. People who are not vaccinated, or unsure, should check with their doctor, free clinic, or local health department to see if the vaccine is available.
- ☐ **Have your isolation plan ready:** You will need to use it if measles is found or even suspected at your site. (Note that this only applies to workplaces with employer-provided housing.)
- ☐ **Act fast:** If there is any suspicion of measles, make sure the person who is ill gets seen by a doctor immediately. Acting fast helps protect them and others around them. If the person who is ill does not have insurance, have them contact a local emergency room, free clinic, or local health department to ask about measles testing.
- ☐ **Notify local public health:** As soon as someone is showing signs of measles, notify your local public health department. Public health will then talk to that person about their close contacts, which likely includes you and other employees. Since time is important and workers might be worried about providing their employer's information to health officials, it is helpful if you as the employer can directly notify local public health if you are aware of any measles concerns.
- ☐ **Work with local public health:** Once local public health is in touch with you, make sure they can communicate with any affected employees. They will monitor people for symptoms and provide guidance to help keep people safe and get care when needed. Reassure employees that local public health is there to protect them and help them get back to work as soon as possible.
- ☐ **Enact your isolation plan:** If you provide housing to employees, you will need to isolate employees who have measles. Separate housing, transportation, and other settings may be needed to avoid getting others sick.

