**Rubella**

**Agent:** Rubella virus  
**Mode of Transmission:** Person-to-person transmission through contact with nose and throat secretions from infected people. The virus may also be transmitted from mother to child during pregnancy, causing congenital rubella syndrome (CRS) in the infant.  
**Signs/Symptoms:** Fever and rash, with frequent occurrences of joint pain, arthritis, and swelling of the lymph nodes.  
**Prevention:** Vaccination, administered as MMR vaccine, should begin at 12 months of age.  
**Other Important Information:** In 2004, rubella was declared to no longer be endemic in the United States, although a small number of cases continue to be imported.

No cases of rubella were reported in Virginia during 2015. The most recent Virginia cases occurred in 2010 in two unvaccinated individuals. Prior to these cases, the last reported case occurred in 2001. Nationally, five cases of rubella and one case of congenital rubella syndrome were reported in 2015, while six cases were reported in 2014.

Surveillance for rubella elimination in the Americas is ongoing. While rubella elimination has been maintained in the United States since 2011, it is important to maintain high vaccination rates as rubella is endemic in other parts of the world as evidenced by the estimated 100,000 babies born worldwide with CRS every year.