

## **Measles**

Agent: Measles virus

Mode of Transmission: Primarily person-to-person by inhalation of respiratory droplets or direct contact with nasal or throat secretions of infected people; however, airborne transmission via aerosolized droplet nuclei has been documented.

Signs/Symptoms: Fever, cough, conjunctivitis, coryza, and a typical rash on the third to seventh day after onset of symptoms.

Prevention: Measles vaccine should be given as part of the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) series beginning at 12-15 months of age followed by a second dose at age 4-6 years.

Other Important Information: Measles is highly communicable, with >90% secondary attack rates among susceptible people. Although measles is no longer endemic in the United States, infections acquired in other countries continue to cause occasional limited transmission of measles.

One case of measles was reported in Virginia during 2008 in a female child from the northern region. This measles case is linked to international travel and the disease was acquired out of the country. The last reported case in Virginia occurred in 2001.