

MEASLES

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

What is measles?

Measles is a highly contagious respiratory disease that can result in severe, sometimes permanent complications including:

- PNEUMONIA
- HOSPITALIZATION
- BRAIN SWELLING
- DEATH

How is measles spread?



Measles is **highly contagious**, and spreads easily when an infected person breathes or coughs.

Measles is so contagious, that if an individual has measles, up to 9 in 10 of their close contacts who are not immune will also become infected.

What are the risks?

- About **1 in 5** people in the US who get measles will be **hospitalized**
- As many as **1 in 20** children with measles gets **pneumonia**
- **1 out of every 1,000** people with measles will develop **brain swelling**, which could lead to **brain damage**
- As many as **3 out of 1,000** people with measles will **die**, even with the best care

How can I protect myself & my family against measles?

Get vaccinated! 2 doses of measles-containing vaccine are recommended to give lifetime protection against measles. The **measles vaccine is safe** and has been used in the U.S. since 1968. All vaccines undergo a scientifically rigorous research and vetting process before they are approved.



Learn more at: www.vdh.virginia.gov/measles & www.LFHD.org