

Measles Infection Prevention and Control

Quick reference guide for health care workers

Measles is a highly communicable disease. Take prompt action to prevent spread!

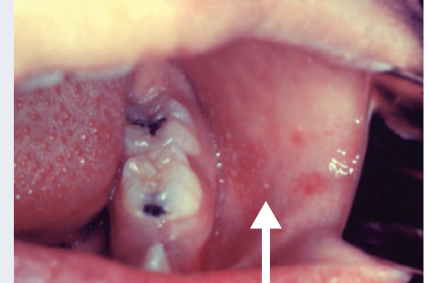
When to suspect measles

Images credit: U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Public Health Image Library

- Fever $\geq 38^{\circ}$ Celsius
- Cough, coryza (runny nose) OR conjunctivitis (red eye)
- Generalized maculopapular (non-vesicular) rash appears 3–7 days after symptom onset, starting on the face and spreading to trunk, arms, and legs.
- Koplik spots can be present in some patients and appear as white spots on the buccal mucosa.



Maculopapular rash



Koplik spots

Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Measures

AS SOON AS POSSIBLE:

- Implement airborne additional precautions and follow routine practices.
- Wear a fit-tested and seal-checked respirator (e.g., N95 respirator or equivalent), and additional personal protective equipment (PPE) based on point-of-care risk assessment (e.g., eye protection, gown and gloves).
- Have the patient wear a medical mask and clean their hands when presenting to reception areas or when outside the patient room.
- Place patient in an airborne infection isolation room (e.g., negative pressure room) or if unavailable, a single occupancy room with the door closed.
- Post additional precaution sign outside the patient room.
- Notify IPC (where available).

NEXT STEPS:

- Notify Public Health/Medical Health Officer if there is a strong clinical suspicion or confirmation of measles.
- Consult with IPC before discontinuing additional precautions.
- Allow two hours of air clearance time (where the air exchanges rate per hour is unknown) before placing another patient in room.

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

- PICNet Measles IPC Information for Health Care Workers: picnet.ca/guidelines/pathogens
- BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) Communicable Disease Manual Measles Section: www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/clinical-resources/communicable-disease-control-manual/communicable-disease-control

Laboratory testing

- Collect specimens for measles testing: nasopharyngeal (NP) swab, urine, blood serology for IgM and IgG.
- Follow organizational guidance for specimen collection or refer to BCCDC Lab Services: www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/professional-resources/laboratory-services;
- Notify Medical Microbiology on-call to facilitate expedited testing.

Local IPC and/or public health contact

Health authority staff to refer to Provincial Workplace Health Services for reporting staff exposures and immunization status: healthbc.sharepoint.com/sites/PWHSHealthBC

Adapted from:
Alberta Health Services and
BC Children's & Women's
2025.06.02