



## The Current Measles Virus Outbreaks and Vaccine Coverage Strategies

Arash Ghanei\*

Department of Critical Care Medicine, China Medical University, Shenyang, China

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### Description

The measles virus is the cause of the highly contagious infectious disease known as measles. Typically, symptoms begin 10–12 days after contact with an infected person and last 7–10 days. Pathogens invade tissues, multiply, and cause an infection when the host tissues react to the infectious agent and the toxins it produces. An illness brought on by an infection is referred to as an infectious disease, also referred to as a transmissible disease or a communicable disease. A single-stranded, negative-sense, enveloped, non-segmented RNA virus belonging to the genus Morbillivirus and the family Paramyxoviridae, measles Morbillivirus (MeV) is also known as Measles Virus (MV). Measles is caused by it. The virus naturally lives in humans and it is known that there are no animal reservoirs.

Measles is a highly contagious disease that is spread through respiratory aerosols and results in a brief but severe immunosuppression. A generalized, maculopapular, erythematous rash, as well as a pathognomic Koplik spot on the buccal mucosa opposite the lower 1st and 2nd molars, are among the symptoms. Coughing and sneezing can spread the virus through close personal contact or direct contact with secretions.

Cough, runny nose, and inflamed eyes are typical of the initial symptoms. Fever typically exceeds 40 °C (104 °F). Two to three days after the onset of symptoms, small white spots in the mouth known as Koplik's spots may appear. A flat, red rash that usually starts on the face and spreads to other parts of the body three to five days after symptoms start. Diarrhea accounts for 8% of cases, middle ear infections account for 7%, and pneumonia accounts for 6%. Immunosuppression brought on by measles is one reason for these. Seizures, blindness, or brain inflammation are less common complications. En-

glish measles, rubeola, red measles, and morbilli are all other names for the disease. Both roseola and rubella, also known as German measles, are diseases brought on by distinct viruses.

The classic description of the characteristic measles rash is a generalized red maculopapular rash that appears several days after the fever. It usually causes itching and begins on the back of the ears but eventually spreads to the head and neck after a few hours. The measles rash can last up to eight days and appears two to four days after the initial symptoms. Before going away, the rash is said to “stain,” changing color from red to dark brown. In general, measles goes away after about three weeks.

A type of modified measles can occur in people who have been vaccinated but only have partial protective immunity. Modified measles has milder symptoms, a longer incubation period, and fewer distinctive symptoms (a brief and discrete rash).

Although complications may occur in some cases, most people survive measles. One to four people will end up in the hospital, and between one and two will pass away. Adults over the age of 20 and children under the age of 5 have a higher risk of complications. The most common fatal complication of measles infection—pneumonia—is responsible for between 56 and 86 percent of measles-related deaths. By eliminating antibodies-producing cells, the measles virus weakens the immune system and increases the likelihood of death from other diseases. Measles suppresses the immune system for about two years. It has been epidemiologically linked to up to 90% of childhood deaths in third-world countries. In the past, it may have killed more people in the United States, the United Kingdom, and Denmark than measles did. Despite the presence of an attenuated strain in the measles vaccine, immune memory is not destroyed.

Contact: Arash Ghanei, Email: ghaniarash045@gmail.com

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