

Responding to Measles in K-12 schools

What to do in the first 10 minutes after measles is suspected



When a student or staff member has measles symptoms, take these actions IMMEDIATELY:

- Give the person a mask.** Be sure it is well-fitting and covers their mouth and nose.
- Isolate them to protect others from exposure.**
 - Move a **student with measles symptoms** to the designated isolation space and contact a caregiver to pick them up. Keep the door closed and windows to the outdoors open.
 - Instruct a **staff member with measles symptoms** to isolate at home. If they can't leave immediately, have them wait in the designated isolation space until transportation is arranged.
 - Advise the caregiver or staff member to seek medical care.
 - After a person with measles symptoms leaves the isolation space, it should remain vacant for at least two hours. Then, clean and disinfect the space with an EPA-registered disinfectant suitable for suitable for hepatitis B and HIV (these are also effective against measles).
 - Staff who monitor an isolated child and staff who clean an isolation space after use should have evidence of immunity to measles and should wear a well-fitting respirator (preferred) or disposable mask.
- Contact your school nurse or the health department.** They will have further guidance for isolation, testing, care, and transport, if needed, as well as other guidance for students and staff in the school.

- **Seek emergency care** if the person who is sick gets rapidly worse or if they experience trouble breathing, pain when breathing or coughing, dehydration, a fever or headache that won't stop, confusion, decreased alertness or severe weakness, blue color around the mouth, or low energy. **Call the healthcare facility in advance to tell them the person may have measles so that they can put procedures in place to prevent spread.**

Additional Actions After Isolation

Be prepared to work with the health department on the following actions, based on their recommendations:

- Make a list of people who might have been exposed to the person with suspected measles. Consider movement throughout the school building including lunch periods, gym, and special events or classes. The health department might recommend that students and staff who are not immune to measles be excluded from school to protect their health and prevent further spread. The health department might also offer them vaccination or medication to prevent infection after exposure.
- Gather information about the school's layout and ventilation to share with the health department.
- Inform families and caregivers that someone at their student's school has had measles symptoms and let them know if their student has been exposed. **The health department will provide information about how to do so.**
- Ask staff to watch for measles symptoms in themselves and students for 21 days and seek medical care if symptoms develop.

The Durham County Department of Public Health measles hotline can be reached at 919-560-HELP (4357).



Public Health

**More measles information:
DCoPublicHealth.org/Measles**