

TOPIC: MEASLES



Measles (Rubeola)

Viral

TYPE:
Single-stranded RNA virus



(Chaiyabin)

CAUSE

Measles virus (Morbillivirus) → infects upper respiratory tract → spreads systemically.

SPREAD

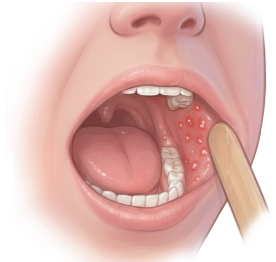
One of the most contagious viruses known.

Direct or indirect transmission → _____ droplets.

Very infectious *before* symptoms occur; quarantine alone is _____ effective.

SYMPTOMS

- ◆ Destroys memory B & T cells → Flu-like symptoms (e.g. fever, cough).
 - May lead to pneumonia, diarrhea, dehydration, encephalitis, or death.
- ◆ **Koplik's Spots:** small white/gray lesions with "red halo" on inside of mouth.
- ◆ Maculopapular rash: red, raised lesions.
 - Starts on _____ & spreads to trunk & limbs.
- ◆ Most dangerous for infants & older adults.



DIAGNOSIS

Presence of _____ spots & serological tests to confirm diagnosis.

TREATMENT

No specific treatment.

IMMUNITY

MMR (measles, mumps & rubella) vaccine.

References:

Chaiyabin, P. (n.d.). [Photograph of measles maculopapular rashes]. Shutterstock.

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EXAMPLE

A parent suspects that their child has measles due to uncomfortable mouth & hand sores. You suspect it's hand, foot & mouth disease (HFMD), a disease characterized by fever, sore throat, painful blisters in the mouth & a rash on hands & feet. However, you need to be sure the patient doesn't have measles (a far more severe disease). Which of the following could you use to help rule out measles (check or X)?

The patient's vaccination history (whether they received the MMR vaccine).	_____
The patient's body temperature (do they have a fever?).	_____
Whether the patient has a sore throat/dry cough.	_____
The presence of Koplik's spots in the patient's mouth.	_____

PRACTICE

Which of the following statements about measles is true?

- a) It is considered a skin disease because it typically enters the body via wounds in the skin.
- b) Quarantine is one of the only effective measures to stop the spread of measles because it's very contagious.
- c) Measles is now completely eradicated in the USA due to high vaccination rates.
- d) Koplik's spots are a useful diagnostic indicator that doctors look for to identify measles infections.