

Measles alert

Queensland Health



Symptoms

Rash (maculopapular)

- + fever (38° or higher at rash onset)
- + cough
- +/- coryza or conjunctivitis

Think measles

- Place patient in separate room (door closed) immediately
- Inform doctor or practice nurse



Act

Implement airborne precautions including surgical mask for patient if possible.

Ensure attending staff are:

- aware
- vaccinated/immune
- using appropriate PPE.



Note: Do not use room occupied by patient for two hours after the patient has vacated.*

*The evidence regarding this two hour period is under review as part of a current review of national guidelines.

Measles ... the facts

Queensland Health



- Measles remains one of the leading causes of death among young children globally.
- Despite the availability of a safe and effective vaccine, an estimated 164,000 people worldwide died from measles in 2008—mostly children under the age of five.
- No longer considered endemic in Australia but outbreaks continue to occur.
- Cases imported from other countries remain an important source of infection.
- Recent outbreaks have resulted in secondary hospital staff infections.

Measles is a serious viral illness that can result in:

- pneumonia
- encephalitis
- middle ear infections
- subacute sclerosing panencephalitis (SSPE)

Transmission Airborne (respiratory spread)

Must be managed with transmission based (airborne) precautions as per Queensland Health Infection Control Guidelines
www.health.qld.gov.au/chrisp/ic_guidelines/sect2_elements.pdf

Prevention The best protection is vaccination. Two doses of measles vaccine are required at least one month apart.

Notifiable Measles must be notified to Public Health Units on clinical suspicion (*Public Health Act and Regulation 2005*).

Queensland Public Health Units

Brisbane North	3624 1111	Gold Coast	5668 3700	Rockhampton	4920 6989
Brisbane South	3000 9148	Hervey Bay	4184 1800	Sunshine Coast	5409 6600
Bundaberg	4150 2780	Logan	3412 2989	Toowoomba	4631 9888
Central West	4652 6000	Mackay	4911 0400	Townsville	4753 9000
Cairns	4226 5555	Moreton Bay	3142 1800	West Moreton	3413 1200
Charleville	4656 8100	Mount Isa	4744 9100		



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