

Measles healthcare professionals communications toolkit

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Purpose of the toolkit

This toolkit supports healthcare professionals to recognise, respond to and reduce the spread of measles.

Measles is a highly infectious disease that can cause serious illness, including pneumonia, and encephalitis. Outbreaks can occur when unvaccinated or partially vaccinated individuals are exposed to the virus, leading to the spread of the disease.

Healthcare professionals play a critical role in measles prevention and control through timely identification, testing, notification, isolation and vaccination. This toolkit provides key messages, clinical guidance and ready-to-use resources to support vaccination conversations, testing and case management.

Please use and share the materials provided to ensure consistent, accurate messaging across Victoria's healthcare system. For additional communications support or to request customised assets, contact the public health communications team at pph.communications@health.vic.gov.au.

Key messages

Primary:

- There has been an increase of measles cases in Victoria and around the world.
- Offer the measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine to anyone born during or after 1966 without documented evidence of receiving two doses of MMR vaccine, or documented evidence of immunity.
- Free MMR vaccine is available under the National Immunisation Program and state-funded MMR program. No Medicare card is required to access free state-funded MMR vaccine.
- Test, isolate and notify suspected measles immediately. Call the Department of Health via the Local Public Health Unit (1300 651 160).
- For patients born during or after 1966, who have been exposed to measles and are not fully vaccinated:
 - Administer the MMR vaccine within 72 hours from first exposure
 - For young infants (too young to be immunised), pregnant or immunocompromised individuals who are not immune, consider normal human immunoglobulin (NHlg) within 6 days from first exposure.
 - Susceptible household contacts (outside of the MMR PEP window).
- Collect PCR (NP swab and first catch urine) and blood for serology in all suspected cases.

Secondary:

- Be alert for measles in patients with fever, cough, conjunctivitis and rash, especially if unvaccinated, partially vaccinated, or unsure of MMR status.
- Minimise the risk of measles transmission in healthcare settings and community. Isolate suspected cases in a closed room with a fitted face mask. Leave the consultation room vacant for 30 minutes after use and advise patients to isolate at home while waiting for results.
- It is important that healthcare professionals are fully immunised against measles to prevent infection and spread of the disease.

Key messages: Free measles vaccine eligibility criteria

National Immunisation Program (NIP):

- Infants aged 12 months (MMR - measles, mumps, rubella) and 18 months (MMRV - measles, mumps, rubella and varicella)
- Catch-up vaccination for people up to and including 19 years, and refugees and humanitarian entrants of any age
- Refer to the Australian Immunisation Handbook for measles vaccine for recommendations for adults here
<<https://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au/contents/vaccine-preventable-diseases/measles>>
- Eligibility for free vaccines under the NIP is linked to eligibility for Medicare benefits. More information on the National Immunisation Program Schedule here:
<https://www.health.gov.au/topics/immunisation/when-to-get-vaccinated/national-immunisation-program-schedule>

Victorian Government funded program:

- Infants from 6 months and before 11 months of age prior to overseas travel. This dose is in addition to the scheduled MMR vaccine doses recommended at ages 12 (MMR) and 18 months (MMRV) under the NIP.
- All people born during or after 1966 without evidence of receiving two documented doses of valid MMR vaccine or without serological evidence of immunity
- Includes people not eligible for Medicare.
- More information about eligibility criteria for free vaccine can be found here:
<https://www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation/immunisation-schedule-victoria-and-vaccine-eligibility-criteria>

Social media: symptoms

Social media caption:

Exposed to measles while travelling overseas?

Symptoms include:

- Cold or flu symptoms
- Fever
- Cough
- Sore or red eyes (conjunctivitis)
- Runny nose
- Feeling generally unwell
- Rash that usually starts on the face and spreads down the body

Symptoms normally begin 7-18 days after being exposed to the virus.

If you think you have measles, avoid close contact with other people and call your doctor to make an appointment.

To make a booking with your doctor at [your health service], visit: [insert your website]



[Download image here.](#)

Social media: vaccination

Social media caption:

Two doses of the measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine are required for protection. If you haven't had two doses, or you don't know, get vaccinated.

Vaccinations are offered here. For more information or to book an appointment, visit: [\[insert your webpage here\]](#)



[Download image here.](#)

Social media: travel vaccination

Social media caption:

Victorians planning to go overseas should make sure their routine vaccinations are up to date, including the measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine .

Seek advice from a health professional at least 6-8 weeks before travelling to determine what vaccinations you may need.

Travellers should ensure they have received 2 doses of the MMR vaccine before going overseas. Infants can receive a dose as young as 6 months.

For more information on measles vaccination and to make a booking, visit: [\[insert your website\]](#)



[Download image here.](#)

Posters

Recent overseas travel?

Have you
recently
travelled
overseas?

Do you have symptoms which include:
fever, runny nose, red eyes, cough, followed by a rash?

If you have these symptoms, tell staff **immediately**.

Ask for a face mask at the front desk and keep it on
until told that you can take it off.



For more information on measles and how to protect
yourself and your family, scan the QR code or visit

www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/conditionsandtreatments/measles

To receive this document in another format email
infectious.diseases@health.vic.gov.au

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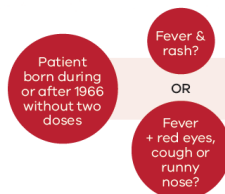


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[Download poster here.](#)

Patient checklist

Could your patient have
measles?



Suspect measles especially in people who are:

- returned travellers
- contact of a measles case
- unimmunised

Actions for healthcare providers:

1. **On arrival** give the patient a face mask to wear and place them in a single room – preferably with negative pressure, or a room with a closed door.
2. **Test:**
 - Nasopharyngeal aspirate or throat swab +/- first catch urine for PCR
 - Blood for measles serology (IgM and IgG)
 - Mark request as urgent.
3. **Isolate**
 - If admitted to hospital keep patient in a negative pressure room and notify the Infection Prevention and Control Team
 - If patient is sent home advise them to isolate at home and avoid having visitors while awaiting results.
4. **Notify** the Department of Health immediately for any suspected case on 1300 651 160.

To receive this document in another format email
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Factsheets

This factsheet provides information for patients on measles, symptoms, and how they can protect themselves.

[Measles factsheet](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2025-07/measles-fact-sheet-english.pdf) <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2025-07/measles-fact-sheet-english.pdf>



Measles

There has been a rise in measles cases in Victoria, and around the world.

Two doses of the measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine is the best way to protect yourself, your family and community against measles.

What is measles?

Measles is a highly infectious viral illness that spreads easily through the air when an infected person breathes, coughs or sneezes.

Measles can be dangerous, especially for babies, young children, pregnant people and people with a weakened immune system.

Severe measles can lead to hospitalisation and death.

What are the symptoms of measles?

Symptoms usually appear 7 to 18 days after exposure and can include a fever, cough, runny nose, watery eyes, and a rash.

If you think you have measles, get tested. Call the health service to advise that you may have measles and wear a fitted face mask to prevent spreading the infection.

How to protect yourself

Two doses of the MMR vaccine are required for immunity. If you haven't had two doses, or you don't know, get vaccinated.

Talk to your GP or local pharmacist to make sure you and your family have all received two doses, or check [here](https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/how-to-find-your-immunisation-records) <https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/how-to-find-your-immunisation-records>

If you are travelling, make sure you have had two doses of MMR vaccine. If you're visiting friends and family, make sure your vaccinations are up to date.

In Victoria, MMR vaccine is free if you are:

- Eligible under the National Immunisation Program:
 - Infants aged 12 and 18 months
 - People under 20 years of age who need catch-up vaccination
- Refugees and humanitarian entrants of any age.
- Eligible under the Victorian state-funded MMR program:
 - Anyone born during or since 1966 and haven't had two doses of the MMR vaccine.
 - Infants aged from 6-11 months of age prior to overseas travel

No Medicare card is needed to access state-funded MMR vaccine.

For more information on measles and how to protect yourself and others visit [Better Health Channel: Measles](https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/condition/sandtreatment/measles) <https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/condition/sandtreatment/measles>

Translated information on [measles](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/infectious-diseases/measles#measles-resources) <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/infectious-diseases/measles#measles-resources>

- [الحصبة \(Measles fact sheet – Arabic\)](#)
- [麻疹 \(Measles fact sheet – Chinese Simplified\)](#)
- [麻疹 \(Measles fact sheet – Chinese Traditional\)](#)
- [Ιλαρά \(Measles fact sheet – Greek\)](#)
- [मीजल्स \(खसरा\) \(Measles fact sheet – Hindi\)](#)
- [Campak \(Measles fact sheet – Indonesian\)](#)
- [Morbillo \(Measles fact sheet – Italian\)](#)
- [ਖ਼ਮਰਾ \(Measles fact sheet – Punjabi\)](#)
- [โรคหัด \(Measles fact sheet – Thai\)](#)
- [Bệnh sởi \(Measles fact sheet – Vietnamese\)](#)

To receive this document in another format, phone 1300 651 160, using the National Relay Service 13 36 77 if required, or email infectious_diseases@health.vic.gov.au <infectious_diseases@health.vic.gov.au>.

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