

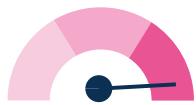
## UNDERSTANDING THE RISKS

# Getting Measles vs. Getting Vaccinated



We all want to make the best health choices for our children. So how risky is measles compared to the vaccines that prevent measles?

### MEASLES FAST FACTS



#### HOW CONTAGIOUS?

**Extremely contagious.** A person infected with measles can infect 90% of the non-immune people they come into contact with. The virus can remain in the air for up to 2 hours.<sup>1,2</sup>



#### HOW SERIOUS?

##### **Moderate to serious.**

Serious complications can include:

**Hospitalization:** 1 in 5 unvaccinated people<sup>3</sup>

**Pneumonia:** 1 in 20 children—pneumonia is the most common cause of death from measles in young children.<sup>3</sup>

**Encephalitis (swelling of the brain):** 1 in 1,000 children—encephalitis can cause permanent deafness, brain damage, and intellectual disability.<sup>3</sup>

**Death:** 1–3 in 1,000 children from measles complications<sup>3</sup>

**Pregnancy complications:** Premature birth, babies with low birthweight<sup>3</sup>



**Infants and children under age 5 are at higher risk for severe illness and complications.<sup>3</sup>**

## VACCINE FAST FACTS



### HOW EFFECTIVE?

2 doses of the MMR vaccine are 97% effective at preventing measles.<sup>4</sup>



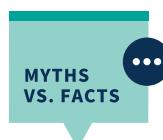
### HOW SAFE?

All the research shows the vaccines are safe, and millions of children have safely gotten a vaccine.<sup>4,5,6</sup>



### SAFETY RECORDS

Measles vaccines were first given in 1963. The MMR vaccine was introduced in 1971 and MMRV vaccines have been licensed since 2005.<sup>1,6</sup>



### MYTH BUSTER

Does the MMR vaccine cause autism? No. Years of research that included more than half a million children found there is NO link between the MMR vaccine and autism.<sup>8,9,10</sup> Learn more at <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccine-safety/about/autism.html>.



**Five separate safety systems continuously monitor all vaccines for as long as the vaccines are given.<sup>10</sup>**

Learn more at [hhs.gov/immunization/basics/safety/index.html](https://hhs.gov/immunization/basics/safety/index.html).

## COMPARING THE TWO

### MEASLES

Common symptoms of measles last about 1–3 weeks and can include:

- High fever (104° F to 105.8° F)
- Cough
- Red spots with white centers on the inside of the cheek
- Full-body rash
- Inflamed eyes
- Ear infections
- Diarrhea

### VACCINES TO PREVENT MEASLES

Common side effects of vaccines to prevent measles are usually mild and last 1–2 days. If side effects occur, they can include:

- Soreness
- Fever
- Mild, non-contagious rash
- Swollen glands in the cheeks or neck

## Rare, More Serious Symptoms or Complications and Rare Side Effects<sup>1,3,11,12,13</sup>

Serious symptoms or complications of measles vary and can include:

- Pneumonia
- Encephalitis (swelling of the brain)
- Clotting disorder

Serious side effects of vaccines to prevent measles vary and can include:

- Seizures caused by fever
- Temporary blood clotting disorder (low platelet count)
- Temporary pain or stiffness in the joints

### Sources:

1. Children's Hospital of Philadelphia: <https://www.chop.edu/vaccine-education-center/vaccine-details/measles-mumps-and-rubella-vaccines>
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): <https://www.cdc.gov/measles/about/index.html>
3. CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/measles/signs-symptoms>
4. CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/mmr/hcp/index.html>
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6. CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/pinkbook/hcp/table-of-contents/chapter-13-measles.html>
7. CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccine-safety/about/autism.html>
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9. Immunize.org: <https://www.immunize.org/wp-content/uploads/catg.d/p4026.pdf>
10. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: <https://www.hhs.gov/immunization/basics/safety/index.html>
11. Boston Children's Hospital: <https://www.childrenshospital.org/conditions/measles-rubeola>
12. CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/current-vis/downloads/mmr.pdf>
13. Health Resources and Services Administration: <https://www.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/hrsa/vicp/vaccine-injury-table-01-03-2022.pdf>