

What is the role of parents and the community?

Parents and the community members can help by ensuring that all children in the community are immunised against measles at the correct ages. If you know of children who are not immunised against measles, then you should urge their parents or guardians to take them for immunisation.

Any child who is suspected to be suffering from measles should be taken to the nearest health facility immediately for examination and investigations. Spread of disease to other children in the community will be prevented and treatment will be given to prevent severe measles and complications

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT YOUR NEAREST CLINIC OR PRIMARY HEALTH CENTRE

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MEASLES



INTRODUCTION

Measles is an acute infection caused by the Measles virus. Measles is highly infectious. In the absence of an Immunization programme, it affects nearly every person in a given population by adolescence. Measles occurs only in humans and the virus is transmitted by aerosolised respiratory droplets during coughing and sneezing.

In the past most cases of measles occurred in children under the age of 1 year, but now more and more cases are occurring in older children and even adults.

Signs that are usually seen during a Measles infection are:

High fever (Hot to touch)
Fine reddish rash and
Cold/flu like symptoms (cough, runny nose and watery
Red eyes

If untreated Measles can result in the following complications:

- ◆ Pneumonia (Infection of the lungs)
- ◆ Infection of the middle ear, which can cause deafness
- ◆ Ulceration of the eyes which can cause blindness
- ◆ Malnutrition
- ◆ Brain damage
- ◆ Death



Who is at risk?

Infants less than 6 months who are too young for the 1st dose of measles Immunization
Immune compromised person including HIV Positive people
Any person who has not had measles infection or has not been vaccinated against measles.

Can Measles be treated?

The risk of death from Measles can be greatly reduced if the disease is recognised early before complications set in. It is important to take the child/adult to the nearest Health facility as soon as measles is suspected.

Can Measles be prevented?

Measles can be prevented through Vaccination. The 2015 revised Childhood Immunization Schedule recommends 1st dose at 6 months and the 2nd dose at 12 months. A Catch-up schedule is also available at clinics for those that missed a schedule dose. (See RTHB) People with Measles should keep away from others (Isolation) until at least four full days have passed since the time the rash first appeared. Women should not get the Measles Vaccine if they are already pregnant or if they plan to get pregnant within three months after getting the Measles vaccine.

