

Measles

Measles is a very serious and contagious illness. The measles virus can spread through the air when an infected person breathes, coughs or sneezes. Symptoms include cough, fever, runny nose and inflamed eyes, as well as a red rash that appears on the face, neck, arms and legs.

Because of immunization, measles is now a rare disease in Canada. However, measles is still common in other parts of the world, and it is possible for cases to occur in Canada. Getting vaccinated is the best way to protect against measles. When you get immunized, you help protect others as well. The measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine is provided free as part of your child's routine immunizations. Call your health care provider to make an appointment. If you are travelling to a country where measles is common, you can be vaccinated through a travel health clinic. To find a travel health clinic near you, visit the [HealthLink BC Directory](#).

For more information about measles and vaccinations, click the links below. If you have more questions, call **8-1-1**.

Common Questions About Measles

Find answers to some of the most [common questions about measles](#). Learn how it spreads, how long after exposure symptoms take to appear and what symptoms to look for. Find out what you can do to prevent measles, from vaccination to avoiding sharing food and drinks.

Featured Topics

Measles

Learn how measles spreads and what the symptoms are. Find out what to do if you think you have measles, and how to prevent spreading measles to others.

- [Measles \(HealthLinkBC File #14b\)](#)
- [Measles \(Rubeola\)](#)
- [Measles Rash](#)

Measles Vaccines

The vaccines that protect against the measles are part of your child's routine immunizations. Learn when your child should be immunized, the benefits of immunization and more.

- [Measles, Mumps, Rubella \(MMR\) Vaccine \(HealthLinkBC File #14a\)](#)
 - [Measles, Mumps, Rubella and Varicella \(MMRV\) Vaccine \(HealthLinkBC File #14e\)](#)
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Immunization

Getting immunized is the best way to protect you and your family from serious and sometimes deadly diseases. When you get immunized, you help protect others as well. Learn more about immunization in British Columbia by visiting our [Immunizations Health Feature](#).

- [A Better Immunization Experience for your Child \(HealthLinkBC File #50e\)](#)
 - [B.C. Immunization Schedules](#)
 - [Childhood Vaccines are Safe \(HealthLinkBC File #50c\)](#)
 - [The Benefits of Immunizing Your Child \(HealthLinkBC File #50b\)](#)
 - [Your Baby's Immune System and Vaccines \(HealthLinkBC File #50a\)](#)
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Travel Health

Getting immunized should be an important part of your travel plans. Learn more about immunization in British Columbia by visiting our [Immunizations Health Feature](#). For information on vaccines related to travelling outside of Canada, please visit:

- [Health Advice for Travellers \(HealthLinkBC File #41a\)](#)
- [Travel Health](#)
- [Travel Immunizations for Adults \(HealthLinkBC File #41c\)](#)
- [Travelling with Children \(HealthLinkBC File #41d\)](#)
- [Travel Health Notices](#)

Your Health Authority

Some health authorities provide information about measles. See the links below.

- [First Nations Health Authority: Measles](#)
- Fraser Health
 - [Measles](#)
 - [Measles alert to health care providers](#) – Vancouver Coastal Health measles outbreak
- [Interior Health: Make sure measles immunizations are up to date](#)
- [Island Health: Measles Vaccine](#)
- Vancouver Coastal Health
 - [Measles](#)
 - [Measles in VCH](#)

You can receive the measles vaccine from your local public health unit, community health centre, at primary care homes, doctor's offices, travel health clinics and pharmacies (for those 5 years and older).

You can find a [health unit](#) near you on ImmunizeBC. To receive vaccines related to travel, contact a [travel health clinic](#). It is recommended that you phone ahead to assure that they have vaccine in stock.

Useful Websites

BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC)

The BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) is an agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority. They provide provincial and national leadership in public health through surveillance, detection, prevention and consultation. They also provide direct diagnostic and treatment services to people with diseases that may affect the health of the public. To learn more about measles and the measles vaccine, click on the links below.

- [Measles](#)
 - [Measles Information for British Columbians](#)
 - [Measles Vaccine](#)
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Immunize BC

ImmunizeBC works to improve the health of British Columbians and reduce the number of infections by vaccine-preventable diseases by providing information on immunizations to individuals, families and health care providers. Immunization can save lives. Learn more about common vaccines, who should get them and why it is so important to get all of your vaccines on time.

- [Immunize BC](#)
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Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC)

The Public Health Agency of Canada is the Federal Agency responsible for promoting health, preventing and controlling chronic diseases and injuries, preventing and controlling infectious diseases, and preparing and responding to public health emergencies. For more information about measles, including how it spreads and how it can be prevented, click on the link below.

- [Measles](#)

Last Updated: February 25, 2019

For more HealthLinkBC File topics, visit www.HealthLinkBC.ca/healthfiles or your local public health unit. For non-emergency health information and advice in B.C. visit www.HealthLinkBC.ca or call **8-1-1** (toll-free). For the deaf and hard of hearing, call **7-1-1**. Translation services are available in more than 130 languages on request.