

Measles (Rubeola) Immunization (Risk Assessment for Adults)

Measles is a highly contagious disease which begins with a high fever, cough, runny nose, and red watery eyes. The symptoms are followed by tiny white spots inside the mouth and a red rash to the face, trunk and arms. This virus can also cause diarrhea, ear infections, pneumonia, encephalitis, and, in more severe cases, death.

Due to recent escalating outbreaks of measles in the U.S., the CDC (Center for Disease Control) and the Department of Public Health recommend vaccination of all children to protect each family member and the communities that they live in.

According to the CDC, the majority of people born before 1957 were considered to be protected due to exposure of this virus during childhood.

From 1967-1989, most people were vaccinated for measles with a single dose. In 1989, health officials made recommendations for two doses of the vaccine.

The CDC recommendation of two doses of the vaccine MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) will make the vaccine's effectiveness about 97%.

Therefore, evidence of immunity is important.

International travelers are at great risk for exposure and transmission of this virus. It is important that information is known regarding a person's immunization status. CDC recommendations are:

Written documentation from a physician of 2 doses of the MMR vaccine

Or

Laboratory evidence of immunity, or confirmation of disease (Measles)

We hope that all of our Region 12 families find this information helpful.

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