

MEASLES FACTSHEET

What is measles?

- Measles is a serious infection caused by the measles virus.

Who catches measles?

- Measles is most common in children aged 1-4 years who have not been immunised. However, you can catch measles at any age.

How do you catch measles?

- Measles is caught through contact with an infected person. It can also be caught through the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

What is measles like?

- Measles is very infectious (catching) and it can make people feel very poorly for a week or more. It causes fever, rash, runny nose and sore eyes. Sometimes it can cause more serious effects. People are infectious from a few days before the start of their rash until five days after the rash starts. The rash is flat red or brown blotches which last between 4 and 7 days.

Can you prevent measles?

- Two MMR (measles-mumps-rubella) injections can protect you from getting measles. The first injection is usually given when the child is 12-15 months and a second injection is given when the child is 3½ years. However, the vaccination can safely be given at any age, though is most recommended for individuals up to 18 years. please contact your local GP to arrange an MMR vaccination.