



## **What are the symptoms of measles?**

First symptoms: high fever (may spike to more than 104°F), cough, runny nose, red watery eyes.

- Three to five days later: rash
  - Flat red rash (sometimes raised bumps on top of flat red lesions)
  - Rash begins on face (at hairline) and spreads to neck, trunk, arms, legs, and feet
  - Fever may spike to >104°F when rash appears

After a few days, the fever subsides and rash fades.

## **What are the MMR vaccination requirements for students attending K-12 schools in Iowa?**

Iowa law requires that all students be vaccinated with two doses of measles and rubella containing vaccine (MMR vaccine) at the time of enrollment (Kindergarten or whenever students transfer in to an Iowa school). To be considered valid, the first dose of MMR vaccine must be administered at or after 1 year of age and the second dose must be administered at least 28 days later than the first dose (usually given at 4 to 6 years of age).

Iowa law allows for a four day grace period, which would apply to the minimum age of the first dose (i.e., the vaccine can be given up to four days before the child turns 1 year of age), but not to the minimum interval between the two doses (the two vaccinations must always be at least 28 days apart).

## **What types of MMR vaccine exemptions are allowed for students attending K-12 schools in Iowa?**

Iowa law allows for:

- 1) Religious exemptions
  - a. Religious exemptions stating that immunization conflicts with a genuine and sincere religious belief must be signed by a Notary Public (they do not need to be signed by a religious leader) and the exemption is valid for the entire length of time the student attends school (Kindergarten through 12th grade).
- 2) Medical exemptions
  - a. Medical exemption stating that immunization would be injurious to the health and well-being of the applicant or any member of the applicant's family or household must be signed by an MD, DO, PA, or ARNP to be considered valid. Unless the MD, DO, PA, ARNP specifically lists an expiration date, the medical exemption is valid for the entire length of time the student attends school (Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade).

## **What are the MMR vaccination requirements for staff who work at K-12 schools in Iowa?**

Iowa law does not address vaccination requirements for staff working at K-12 schools in Iowa; however, IDPH recommends that all staff be fully vaccinated.

## **What are the requirements for non-immune persons (including K-12 students and staff) determined to have been exposed to a person with confirmed measles?**

In most cases, non-immune persons exposed to a person with confirmed measles will be required under a public health order to stay in their home from five days after the first possible exposure until 21 days after the last possible exposure to the person with confirmed measles.

**If a person with confirmed measles is identified in a K-12 school in Iowa, will non-immune students and staff in that K-12 school be excluded from school for a period of time (even if they are NOT identified as having been exposed to the person with confirmed measles)?**

Yes; generally non-immune students and staff will be excluded from the school until 21 days after the last possible time a person who had confirmed measles was at the school. Public health officials will work directly with K-12 school officials to determine which exclusions are appropriate. If the non-immune students and staff (who have NOT been identified as exposed to the person with confirmed measles) get vaccinated, they will be allowed to return to school.

**Should K-12 school officials in Iowa maintain records of staff members' MMR vaccination history?**

Iowa law does not require K-12 school officials to maintain measles vaccination records for school staff; however, if a case of measles were identified within a school, public health officials would work with school officials to quickly determine which students and staff are non-immune, and ensure all susceptible individuals are excluded. Having these records readily available would expedite this determination.

**Can K-12 schools in Iowa (either public or private) impose any additional MMR vaccination recommendations, such as denying a religious or medical exemption?**

The Iowa Department of Public Health does not have the legal authority to exclude children who have a valid medical or religious exemption from a school or licensed child care center unless an emergency or epidemic has been declared. If a school seeks to impose additional requirements they should consult their own legal counsel prior to doing so.