

What is measles?

Measles is a highly contagious viral infection caused by the measles virus. In fact, measles is one of the most contagious diseases in the world.

How does measles infection happen?

Measles is spread through the air (i.e., when someone who has measles coughs or sneezes in the same room as you and you inhale the infected droplets in the air), through close contact with others (e.g., coughing or sneezing next to someone), or through coming into direct contact with an infected person's mucus or spit and then getting these fluids in your nose or mouth.

Immunization is recommended for everyone.

Measles immunization is part of the routine childhood immunization schedule in Canada. The MMR vaccine protects against measles, mumps, and rubella; the MMR-V vaccine protects against measles, mumps, rubella, and varicella (chickenpox).

Measles immunization is safe and effective.

Publicly-funded MMR immunization schedules may vary between provinces and territories.



Talk to your doctor, nurse, pharmacist, or local public health office about getting yourself or your child immunized against measles.