

# Measles Reference Guide for Camp Operators

Measles is highly contagious and can spread rapidly, especially in a camp setting where children and staff are in close contact. The best protection against measles is broad vaccination coverage. Individual camp policy may choose to recommend or require specific immunizations of campers and staff. The following steps are strongly recommended to help prevent and identify measles and limit its impact at camp. For additional guidance and recommendations for children's camps, see the camp operator letter available at:

[health.ny.gov/environmental/outdoors/camps/operators](http://health.ny.gov/environmental/outdoors/camps/operators) under **Health, Illness Management, and Vaccine-Preventable Diseases**, or contact your local health department (LHD) at [health.ny.gov/EnvironmentalContacts](http://health.ny.gov/EnvironmentalContacts).

## Before Camp Begins: Collect and Review Immunization Records

- Confirm measles immunity for all campers and staff by receiving written record of:
  - two doses of MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine);
  - laboratory test showing measles immunity;
  - laboratory confirmation of measles; or
  - birth in the United States before 1957.
- Exclude campers and staff with measles:
  - symptoms in the four days prior to arrival at camp:
    - high fever and cough, runny nose, red/watery eyes, and/or rash
    - rash usually starts 2 to 4 days after the fever begins, spreading from the face and neck to the body, arms, and legs.
  - exposures in the 21 days prior to arrival at camp for unvaccinated individuals or one MMR.
- Maintain lists of individuals not fully immunized including those with valid medical exemptions. This list should include the campers, volunteers and staff with:
  - No MMR vaccinations,
  - One dose of MMR and the date they would be eligible to obtain the second dose,
  - No documentation of immunity, and
  - A valid medical exemption as these individuals would not be eligible for MMR vaccine and may require alternate post-exposure prophylaxis if exposed to measles.
- During staff training, include information about measles symptoms, monitoring campers for these symptoms, and reporting suspect cases to the health director.
- Send parents or guardians the educational flyer titled, *You Can Prevent the Spread of Measles at Summer Camp* ([health.ny.gov/publications/2218.pdf](http://health.ny.gov/publications/2218.pdf)).
- Maintain a supply of medical/surgical face masks.

## When Campers and Staff Arrive: Initial Health Screening

- Prior to camp entry, screen all campers and staff for measles symptoms and possible recent exposures using the camp's approved safety plan procedures.

- Exclude campers and staff with measles symptoms or exposures as noted above.
- Ask parent/guardian to notify the camp of any potential measles exposures during the season (e.g. visitation days, nights, weekends, between sessions).
- Obtain proof of measles immunity for those not received.
- Update lists of individuals not fully immunized.
- Report measles symptoms or known exposures to the LHD.

#### **During Camp: Prevention and Control**

- Conduct daily health surveillance of individuals for signs of illness.
- Monitor individuals with recent exposure.
- Immediately isolate individuals that develop measles symptoms and contact the LHD and parent/guardian:
  - Place individual in a private room with a door that closes.
  - If the individual must be transported through common areas, place a medical/surgical face mask on the individual.
  - Restrict susceptible individuals from entering the space.
  - Call ahead if seeking medical care, so proper precautions can be put in place.
- Work with your LHD to identify individuals with measles exposures while at camp, identify those individuals' immunity status, and quarantine, exclude, and/or provide post-exposure prophylaxis for those individuals as appropriate.
- Maintain a list of visitors to the camp with contact information in case follow-up is needed.

#### **Additional Information**

- New York State Department of Health Camp Operator website: [health.ny.gov/environmental/outdoors/camps/operators](https://health.ny.gov/environmental/outdoors/camps/operators)
- New York State Department of Health Camp Operator letter regarding measles: [health.ny.gov/environmental/outdoors/camps/docs/vpd\\_camp\\_letter.pdf](https://health.ny.gov/environmental/outdoors/camps/docs/vpd_camp_letter.pdf)
- New York State Department of Health Measles website: [health.ny.gov/measles](https://health.ny.gov/measles)