

## The Florida Department of Health Issues Measles Advisory

The Florida Department of Health (FLDOH) has issued a notice to health care providers emphasizing the importance of identifying measles quickly and taking the necessary steps to minimize transmission. Confirmed cases of this serious disease have been identified in Florida and clinicians are asked to contact their county health department immediately upon suspicion of a measles case for additional support and guidance.

Measles is a highly infectious disease spread through the air by breathing, coughing, or sneezing. It can be transmitted four days before the rash becomes visible to four days after the rash appears. Symptoms generally begin approximately eight to 14 days after a person is exposed to someone with the illness, with a range of seven to 21 days.

Initial symptoms include:

- Fever
- Cough
- Coryza (runny nose)
- Conjunctivitis (red, watery eyes)
- Malaise

The initial symptoms are typically followed by:

- Generalized descending maculopapular rash
- Tiny white spots with bluish-white centers found inside the mouth (Koplik's spots)

Providers should **consider isolating patients to a private room to minimize exposure** when they present with a combination of a generalized, maculopapular rash lasting longer than three days, temperature greater than 101.0°F (38.3°C), and cough, coryza, and/or conjunctivitis.

The [advisory](#) issued by the FLDOH includes more details on clinical presentation, transmission, prevention, and laboratory testing for measles. Other educational resources are available at [FloridaHealth.gov](https://www.floridahealth.gov), including a [helpful flyer](#) on identifying, testing, and management of suspected cases of measles.