

Press Release Template: Multiple Exposure Locations

This press release template provides a framework for communicating important information about a measles outbreak to the public while promoting preventive measures and providing guidance on how to respond to potential exposure. Adjustments can be made to fit the specific circumstances and recommendations of the local or state health department.

Possible Measles Exposure at Multiple Locations In *[Insert Jurisdiction]*

Please be advised that the *[Department of Health]* has confirmed *[confirmed case number]* measles cases in *[demographics of case(s)]*, with possible exposure in multiple locations.

[Month, Day, Year] – *[Department of Health]* is investigating *[confirmed case count]* confirmed measles cases in *[key demographics]* with *[relevant epidemiology eg recent international travel]*. The *[individual was/individuals were]* at multiple locations in *[jurisdiction(s)]* while infectious during the days and times listed below. **Anyone who was at these locations during these times may have been exposed to measles.**

Key Takeaways:

- Measles is a highly contagious and potentially severe disease that causes fever, rash, cough, runny nose, and red, watery eyes.
- Complications of measles can include ear infection, diarrhea, pneumonia, swelling of the brain, and even death.
- Measles cases have been increasing around the world and in the U.S. It's important to check your vaccination status and get vaccinated if you aren't protected.
- The measles vaccine is very effective. Two doses of measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine provides about [97% protection](#) against getting infected by measles and that protection lasts a lifetime. One dose provides about [93% protection](#) against infection.
- Past measles infection also can provide lifelong protection. Between 95–98% of people born before 1957 were naturally exposed to measles, providing protection.
- Now is a good time to talk to your healthcare provider about any vaccinations you may need, which is especially important before any planned travel.

See below for more information about exposure locations and what to do if you may have been exposed.

This template was developed by the Center for Outbreak Response Innovation and adapted from Public Health- Seattle and King County.

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Locations of potential exposures to the public

Measles can spread even before symptoms emerge and people realize they have the disease.

The infected [*individual was/individuals were*] at several locations while infectious. The time for exposure includes the period when the individual was at the locations listed below and 2 hours after. Anyone who was at the following locations during the times listed could have been exposed to measles:

Date	Time	Location
		Location Name Address
		Location Name Address
		Location Name Address
		Location Name Address

What to do if you were in a location of potential measles exposure

[Insert estimated vaccine coverage and risk level to the public, for example: “Most people in our area have immunity to measles through vaccination, so the risk to the public is low.”]

Anyone who was in the location of potential exposure to measles around the times listed should:

1. **Find out if you have been vaccinated for measles or have had measles previously.** If you are unsure about your vaccination status or previous infections, talk to your healthcare provider.
2. **Call a healthcare provider promptly if you develop illness with fever or unexplained rash.** To avoid possibly spreading measles to others, call the clinic or hospital first to tell them you want to be checked for measles, if possible. It is also important to limit contact with others, especially those without known immunity.

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- 3. Vaccination or medication can be given after exposure in some cases to prevent illness – check with your healthcare provider.** This is especially important for people at high risk for measles complications.

If you were at any of the locations during the times listed above and are not immune to measles, the symptoms likely would appear between *[insert dates]*. People who have weakened immune systems may take longer to experience symptoms.

More Information on Measles:

- Measles mainly spreads through the air after a person with measles coughs or sneezes. If one person has it, up to 9 out of 10 people in the same room will become infected if they are not protected.
- Measles symptoms begin 7 to 21 days after exposure. Generally, measles is contagious from about 4 days before the rash appears through 4 days after the rash appears. People can spread measles before they develop the characteristic rash.
- Complications from measles can happen even in healthy people, but those at highest risk include infants and children under 5 years old, adults 20 years and older, pregnant people, and people with weakened immune systems from medications or underlying disease. If you are in one of these high-risk groups and were exposed to measles at one of these locations, be sure to contact your healthcare provider to discuss any steps you need to take to protect yourself or loved ones against complications with measles.
- Get vaccinated to protect yourself, your family, and your community. Measles is preventable with the safe and highly effective measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 2 doses of the MMR vaccine are about 97% effective at preventing measles and that protection is long-lasting.

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