Measles (rubeola)

Measles is caused by a highly contagious virus; key symptoms are fever, runny nose, cough, and a rash all over the body.

There are currently no reported cases of measles in Pima County, but some cases have been reported elsewhere in Arizona.

Vaccination for Prevention!

Because measles is highly contagious, the best way to prevent it is through vaccination with the MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella) vaccine. For children following the typical vaccination schedule, the first dose is generally administered between 12 and 15 months of age. In Arizona a second dose of MMR is required before a child starts school, and it can be given as soon as four weeks after the first dose, if necessary. More than 97% of individuals who receive two doses of the MMR vaccine develop evidence of immunity to measles.

If you or your children are unvaccinated, vaccinations are available through your primary care provider, as well as community health centers, clinics, and pharmacies. For children and adults who are uninsured or under-insured, the Pima County Health Department can offer free or low-cost vaccinations. Click here to learn more about Health Department vaccination services. If you are not sure whether you have been vaccinated, ask your primary care physician to do a simple blood test to check your measles protection status (called a titer).

If you think you may have been infected with measles, stay home from work and contact your primary care physician immediately. Because measles spreads so easily, it is vital to avoid infecting others.

Frequently Asked Questions – Centers for Disease Control (CDC)

Helpful Resources

Pima County Health Department
AZ Dept. of Health Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
Measles Cases and Outbreaks