

# Measles:

Protect your  
staff & kids at  
summer camp



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.  
Taney County Health Department



## Taney County Health Department Response

The nation is experiencing a large increase of measles. Summer camps bring children from different areas together to eat, sleep, and play in close quarters, and it can be easy for illnesses to spread. It is recommended to take extra precautions to prevent further spread and to keep campers and staff safe this summer. We recommend that campers and staff receive two doses of the MMR vaccine.

### Symptoms

Early symptoms include moderate fever, cough, runny nose, red eyes, and sore throat. People are contagious about four days before their red/brown rash starts to four days after it appears. The rash usually appears 3-5 days after early symptoms. Before visiting a medical provider, parents need to call the facility before arriving. The long-term effects of measles can cause serious damage to the nervous system.

### Disinfecting and Reducing Spread

Measles is spread through the air when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks (the virus can live on surfaces and in the air for up to two hours). It is also spread by touching contaminated surfaces and then touching the eyes, nose, or mouth. Standard household disinfectant readily kill the measles virus.

### Measles is Highly Contagious

Someone with measles can infect 9 in 10 of their close contacts. If a child or staff member feels sick, keep them at home. Encourage them to seek medical attention immediately if they possibly have measles. If a camper or staff have symptoms, isolate, monitor, and contact the health department for testing and further guidance.

### Check Vaccination Status

The best way to prevent measles is by getting vaccinated. Two doses of the MMR Vaccine provide 97% protection against measles. Be sure to have all vaccine records available.



## Help keep campers & staff healthy!