

# Measles case definition

| Version | Summary of changes      | Last reviewed | Implementation date |
|---------|-------------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| 1.0     | Initial case definition | 2004          |                     |

## Reporting

Both confirmed cases and probable cases should be notified.

### Confirmed case

A confirmed case requires either:

1. laboratory definitive evidence

OR

2. clinical evidence AND epidemiological evidence.

### Laboratory definitive evidence

At least one of the following:

1. Isolation of measles virus

OR

2. Detection of measles virus by nucleic acid testing

OR

3. Detection of measles virus antigen

OR

4. IgG seroconversion or a significant increase in antibody level or a fourfold or greater rise in titre to measles virus EXCEPT if the case has received a measles-containing vaccine eight days to eight weeks before testing. (NOTE: paired sera must be tested in parallel).

OR

5. Detection of measles virus-specific IgM antibody confirmed in an approved reference laboratory EXCEPT if the case has received a measles-containing vaccine eight days to eight weeks before testing.

### Clinical evidence

An illness characterised by all of the following:

1. A generalised maculopapular rash lasting three or more days

AND

2. Fever (at least 38° C if measured) at the time of rash onset

AND

3. Cough OR coryza OR conjunctivitis OR Koplik spots.

**Epidemiological evidence**

An epidemiological link is established when there is:

1. Contact between two people involving a plausible mode of transmission at a time when:
  - a. one of them is likely to be infectious (approximately five days before to four days after rash onset)

AND

- b. the other has an illness that starts within seven to 18 (usually 10) days after this contact
- AND

2. At least one case in the chain of epidemiologically linked cases (which may involve many cases) is laboratory confirmed.

**Probable case**

A probable case requires Laboratory suggestive evidence AND clinical evidence.

**Laboratory suggestive evidence**

Detection of measles specific IgM antibody other than by an approved reference laboratory EXCEPT if the case has received a measles-containing vaccine eight days to eight weeks before testing.

**Clinical evidence**

As with confirmed case.

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