

**Vaccines do NOT  
cause autism.**

Numerous studies  
conclude that there is  
no link between  
vaccines and autism  
spectrum disorder.

**Measles can cause  
serious health  
complications.**

Measles can lead to  
pneumonia, brain  
damage, deafness, and  
even death.

**Vaccines are safe.**

According to the CDC,  
data show that the  
current U.S. vaccine  
supply is the safest in  
history.

**The measles,  
mumps and rubella  
vaccine (MMR)  
never contained  
preservatives or  
mercury.**

Single-dose vaccines  
do not contain  
preservatives.

**Protect Your  
Herd.**

All it takes is one  
person with measles to  
spread disease when  
the herd is not  
vaccinated. Make sure  
everyone in your  
community has the  
facts about vaccines.

**Vaccines save lives.**

**HAVE YOU**





# Share the FACTS about measles and vaccine safety with your colleagues and patients.

## MEASLES: A SERIOUS PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE

In 2019, more than 1,200 cases of measles have been confirmed in 30+ U.S. states, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This is the greatest number of cases reported in the U.S. since 1992 and since measles was declared eliminated in 2000.

The majority of cases are among people who were not vaccinated against measles. Measles is more likely to spread and cause outbreaks where groups of people are unvaccinated.

### AS A HEALTHCARE PROVIDER, YOU NEED TO PROTECT YOUR “HERD”.

Herd immunity (or community immunity) is the protection from contagious diseases that individuals benefit from as a result of living in a community where a critical number of people are vaccinated. Herd immunity protects vulnerable patients or young children who cannot be vaccinated from vaccine-preventable diseases. Vaccination protects not only the person receiving the vaccine, but everyone else in the community.

Make sure everyone in your community has the facts about vaccines and is up-to-date with their shots. Protect your herd by sharing the facts about measles and vaccine safety with healthcare colleagues, patients, family, and friends.

Measles, also called rubeola, is a serious respiratory illness caused by the measles virus. It is a highly contagious virus that lives in the nose and throat mucus of an infected person and spreads through the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Measles can be spread even if the infected person is no longer in the room. Measles can lead to pneumonia, lifelong brain damage, deafness, and death.

- About 1 in 5 people in the U.S. who get measles will be hospitalized.
- 1 out of every 1,000 people with measles will develop brain swelling, which could lead to brain damage.
- 1–3 out of 1,000 people with measles will die, even with the best care.
- Measles is so contagious that if one person has it, up to 9 out of 10 people around the infected person will also become infected if they are not protected.

**VACCINATION IS THE BEST WAY TO PREVENT MEASLES.** Children need two doses of measles vaccine. The first dose of the measles, mumps, rubella vaccine (MMR) should be given at 12–15 months of age; the second dose is given before a child enters kindergarten (4–6 years of age). Two doses of MMR vaccine are about 97% effective at preventing measles; one dose is about 93% effective. There are additional recommendations for adults and those who are traveling outside of the U.S., including infants as young as 6 months of age.

### THE MMR VACCINE IS SAFE AND EFFECTIVE.

- There is no link between vaccines and autism. A 1998 study in the *Lancet* linking the MMR vaccine with autism was proven fraudulent and was retracted. Numerous studies since then have confirmed that children who receive the MMR vaccine are not at increased risk of autism.
- The belief that vaccines are dangerous due to preservatives is a problem in many communities. Most vaccines are dispensed in single-dose vials and therefore do not require preservatives.

### REFERENCES

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.** Top 4 Things Parents Need to Know about Measles. <https://www.cdc.gov/measles/about/parents-top4.html>. May 2019. Accessed September 2019.

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.** Complications of Measles. <https://www.cdc.gov/measles/symptoms/complications.html>. June 2019. Accessed September 2019.

**American Academy of Pediatrics: HealthyChildren.org.** How to Protect Your Children During a Measles Outbreak. <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/immunizations/Pages/How-to-Protect-Your-Children-During-A-Measles-Outbreak.aspx>. May 2019. Accessed September 2019.

**American Academy of Pediatrics: HealthyChildren.org.** Protecting Your Baby from a Measles Outbreak FAQs. <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/immunizations/Pages/Protecting-Your-Baby-from-a-Measles-Outbreak-FAQs.aspx>. March 2019. Accessed September 2019.

**Immunization Action Coalition.** MMR Vaccine Does Not Cause Autism. <https://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4026.pdf>. May 2019. Accessed September 2019.