

Notice to persons who have been in contact with a measles patient and need protective antibodies

PERSON IN CONTACT:

Surname, Name:

Date of Birth:

You have been in contact with a person who has been diagnosed with **measles**.

In severely immunocompromised patients, infants and pregnant women, measles can be an extremely difficult disease with an unfavourable outcome.

Vaccination with live, attenuated measles vaccine is contraindicated in:

- Pregnant women;
- Infants under 6 months of age;
- Infants with acute febrile illness;
- Patients with severely compromised immunity.

These persons/patients can be protected after contact with measles virus by administering protective antibodies (intravenous human immunoglobulins - IVIG) according to national recommendations.

As you belong to one of the higher risk groups, we advise you to receive protective antibodies. You will receive them in _____.

As there is still a risk of contracting measles despite receiving protective antibodies, you are advised to avoid contact with infants, pregnant women and people who are immunocompromised for 21 days after coming into contact with the patient.

It is important to monitor your health during this time. If you develop measles-like symptoms (fever, conjunctivitis, runny nose, cough and the characteristic reddish rash), inform your general physician immediately by telephone. Stay at home, don't go to the waiting room unannounced to avoid spreading the disease. Follow the instructions of your selected physician for further action.

In certain cases, a person who has received protective antibodies should not be in the workplace or at work for 21 days after coming into contact with a patient (e.g. healthcare workers).

In the event of a new contact with measles virus after three weeks from the last injection, a second injection of protective antibodies at the same dose as the first injection is required.

ABOUT MEASLES

Measles is an acute, highly contagious viral disease characterised by fever, cough, runny nose, conjunctivitis and a characteristic rash. It appears from the third to the seventh day of the illness, first on the face, then spreading over the body, lasting 4-7 days. Complications of the disease can include otitis media, pneumonia, diarrhoea and inflammation of the brain tissue. Fatal outcome is relatively rare. The incubation period for measles is about 10 days. Patients become infectious four days before the rash appears and remain infectious for up to four days after the rash appears. Humans are the only natural host of measles virus. Measles is transmitted by airborne droplets, direct contact with respiratory secretions from an infected person, and less commonly by indirect transmission through freshly contaminated objects. Measles is one of the most infectious diseases.