

Action Card

Occupational Exposure to Measles

Staff are supported to ensure that they are fully immunised for measles.

Occupational contact

Staff are considered to be exposed and / or a contact of a confirmed measles patient if:

- they have face to face contact of any length or
- spend more than 15 minutes in a small, confined area **and**
- were not wearing appropriate Personal protective Equipment (PPE) Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE) *

NB: if appropriate PPE, including Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE) ie, an FFP3 respirator is worn, then staff are not considered to be exposed.

Exclusion of exposed staff from work

Staff who are exposed to a confirmed or suspected case of measles and do not have satisfactory evidence of protection (2 documented doses of measles containing vaccination or measles IgG positive) should be excluded from work from the 5th day after they were first exposed to 21 days after the final exposure.

If staff are tested rapidly after exposure, they can continue to work if found to be measles IgG positive within 7 days of exposure (as this is too early to be due to infection from the recent exposure).

If MMR vaccine is given post-exposure, it is unlikely to prevent the development of measles but, if the health care worker remains symptom free for at least 14 days after MMR was given, they can return at that stage.

Staff with satisfactory evidence of protection (2 documented doses of measles containing vaccination or measles IgG positive) can continue to work normally but should be advised to report to occupational health if they develop prodromal symptoms ** (2-4 day phase before the rash appears) or a fever between 7 days after the first exposure and 21 days after the last exposure.

Exposed health care workers that develop fever or rash should contact their GP and be excluded from all work until 4 full days after onset of the rash. For further advice, please discuss with your Line Manager or Occupational Health.

*** PPE**

- single-use, disposable gloves
- single-use, disposable apron (or gown if extensive splashing or spraying, or performing an aerosol generating procedure (AGP))
- respiratory protective equipment (RPE) - this means wearing of a FFP3 respirator that the staff member has been fit tested for
- eye/face protection (goggles or visor)

**** Prodromal symptoms**

- Coryza (symptoms of a cold)
- Cough
- Conjunctivitis
- fever