



Frequently Asked Questions for Colleges & Universities

Measles

What are the symptoms of measles?

First symptoms: high fever (may spike to more than 104°F), cough, runny nose, red watery eyes.

- Three to five days later: rash
 - Flat red rash (sometimes raised bumps on top of flat red lesions)
 - Rash begins on face (at hairline) and spreads to neck, trunk, arms, legs, and feet
 - Fever may spike to >104°F when rash appears

After a few days the fever subsides and rash fades

What are the MMR vaccination requirements for Iowa colleges and universities?

Iowa law does not address measles vaccination requirements for Iowa college and university students or staff; however, many colleges and universities have policies requiring vaccinations for entry.

It is recommended that college and university students who do not have evidence of immunity against measles receive two doses of MMR vaccine, separated by at least 28 days. It is also recommended that adults who do not have evidence of immunity against measles should receive at least one dose of MMR vaccine.

What types of MMR vaccine exemptions are allowed for Iowa colleges and universities?

Since Iowa law does not address measles vaccination requirements for Iowa college and university students or staff, each institution determines which types of exemptions they will allow.

What are the requirements for non-immune persons (including college and university students and staff) determined to have been exposed to a person with confirmed measles?

In most cases, non-immune persons exposed to a person with a confirmed case of measles will be required, under a public health order, to stay in their home (or in a facility where they will not exposure others, such as a dorm room with a private bathroom with food delivered to them) from five days after the first possible exposure until 21 days after the last possible exposure to the person with confirmed measles.

Should Iowa colleges and universities maintain records of students' and staff members' MMR vaccination history?

Since Iowa law does not address measles vaccination requirements for Iowa college and university students or staff, each institution determines whether vaccination records will be maintained. IDPH does recommend that Iowa colleges and universities maintain vaccination records for students and staff.

If a case of measles were identified within an Iowa college or university, public health officials would work with college or university officials to quickly determine which exposed students and staff are non-immune. Having these records readily available would expedite this determination.