

# 7 Measles

## Transmission

- Droplets of saliva/mucus from one person to another, mainly while coughing or sneezing

## Symptoms

- Can start with high fever, runny nose, cold, cough, red eyes and sometimes white spots inside the cheeks
- Red blotchy rash appears on the third to seventh day, starting behind the ears and on the hairline and then spreading to the rest of the body

## Prevention

- ➔ Mass vaccination of all children (by injection), especially in emergency situations
- ➔ Rapid detection and referral of suspected cases to health facilities

- ➔ Health promotion
- ➔ Cough etiquette

## Vulnerable people

- Children who are not vaccinated are most at risk
- Displaced populations are another specific risk

## In case of epidemic

- ➔ Mass vaccination campaigns by the health authorities at the beginning of an epidemic
- ➔ Rapid detection of suspected cases
- ➔ Vitamin A supplementation

- ➔ Referral of new and suspected cases to health facilities
- ➔ Social mobilization of the community to get children vaccinated
- ➔ Health promotion

## Volunteer actions

See the following **action tools** for more information on what actions to take against measles:

31	29	32	27	4	28	2	3	7	30	33	14	15	17
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## Community-based assessment questions

Make a map of the community and mark the information you gather on the map.

- When did the epidemic start?
- How many people live in the affected community?
- How many children under 5 years of age live in the affected community?
- Are children vaccinated or not?
- Who and where are the vulnerable people?
- How many children have died from yellow fever and where?
- How many children have fallen sick with yellow fever and where?
- Are there any health services and where?
- Are there going to be vaccination campaigns?
- Is there a health promotion programme in place?



*A vaccination card*



*A child with measles*

## Actions

- Get to know health workers who are doing vaccinations and the centres where they are done.
- Know children and families who are hard to reach and help them reach vaccination centres.
- Help health workers make sure that all children are vaccinated.