

# Measles Vaccine Rash

## Definition

- Mild pink rash that occurs 6-12 days after the measles shot

## Health Information

### Symptoms

- The rash is made up of small pink spots.
- They occur on both sides of the body. Usually, occurs only on the chest, stomach and back.
- Most children with a rash also have a fever. The fever is most often between 101 F and 103 F (38.3 C and 39.5 C).

### Cause

- One of the body's normal reactions to the measles shot.
- The rash means the shot is working. This is not an allergic reaction.

## Care Advice

### 1. Overview:

- About 5% of children have a pink rash after a measles shot.
- A fever also occurs in most of these children.
- The rash and fever mean the shot is working. Your child's body is making new antibodies to protect against the real disease.

### 2. Treatment:

- The rash is harmless and cannot be spread to others.
- Creams or medicines are not needed.

### 3. Fever:

- For fevers above 102° F (39° C), give acetaminophen (such as Tylenol) or ibuprofen. Note: Lower fevers are important for fighting infections.
- For ALL fevers: Keep your child well hydrated. Give lots of cold fluids.

### 4. What to Expect:

- The measles shot rash and fever lasts 2 to 3 days.

### 5. Return to School:

- The rash cannot be spread to others.
- Your child does not need to miss any child care or school.

## Call Your Doctor If

---

- Fever lasts over 3 days
- Rash lasts over 4 days
- You think your child needs to be seen
- Your child becomes worse

### **Pediatric Care Advice**

**Author:** Barton Schmitt MD, FAAP

**Copyright 2000-2022** Schmitt Pediatric Guidelines LLC

**Disclaimer:** This health information is for educational purposes only. You the reader assume full responsibility for how you choose to use it. The information contained in this handout should not be used as a substitute for the medical care and advice of your pediatrician. Listing of any resources does not imply an endorsement.