

Introduction

Measles is one of the world's most contagious diseases. It is an acute, infectious disease caused by the Measles virus (genus Morbillivirus). Measles is an airborne disease, which means it spreads through the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes or when someone breathes in the air that was breathed by someone with measles. The virus remains active and contagious in the air or on infected surfaces for up to two hours. For this reason, it is very infectious.

It can be transmitted by an infected person from four days prior to the onset of the rash to four days after the rash erupts.

Case Study

Roma is a 7-year-old girl studying in Year 1. During the morning in school, Roma had a cough and a runny nose and complained of a headache. She started to feel hot, and the teacher contacted her mum to come and take her home at lunch time. That afternoon Roma's mum took her to the GP, who diagnosed that Roma had measles. After the weekend, two other children from the same class were also absent. On inquiry, the school got to know that both children had also developed measles.

Questions for discussion

- What are the main approaches and strategies that could be used to **measure** an outbreak of measles?
- What are the main approaches and strategies that could be used to **monitor** an outbreak of measles?
- What are the main approaches and strategies that could be used to **control** an outbreak of measles?
- Identify some **factors** that may influence the health and wellbeing of individuals affected by the measles outbreak. What health education information will you give to the school management to address the outbreak?

As this is a discussion, you will be awarded a mark based on the knowledge, understanding, and skills that you demonstrate during your talk and discussion. You may be asked questions to clarify any points you make as part of this. Your work must be underpinned by researched facts and data that show your research skills and understanding of the key points that you have included.