**Measles**

Measles is an acute, highly communicable viral illness, known for its red, blotchy rash that starts on the face and then becomes generalized. The rash is preceded by a febrile prodrome that includes cough, coryza and conjunctivitis, and sometimes photophobia and Koplik spots. Diagnosis is confirmed by the presence of serum IgM antibodies (in a patient who has not recently been immunized).

Measles is no longer endemic in the United States. However, cases are occasionally imported; in 2006, cases in Oregon were imported from Asia and Africa. No indigenous cases were reported in 2006, and the risk of exposure to measles in Oregon remains low. Sustaining high levels of vaccination is important to limit spread of measles from imported cases and to prevent it from becoming re-established as an endemic disease in the United States.

**Measles by year - Oregon, 1997–2006**

![Measles cases by year graph](image-url)
Incidence of measles - Oregon vs. nationwide, 1997–2006

Oregon measles cases by country of importation, 1997–2006

- Japan: 37%
- Saudi Arabia: 24%
- Hong Kong: 13%
- Kenya: 13%
- Europe: 13%