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What is measles?
Measles is a highly contagious respiratory, viral disease that causes fever, red and sore eyes, runny nose, cough, cold symptoms, and a characteristic rash that typically starts on the head and spreads to the rest of the body.
The disease can cause severe health complications, including pneumonia and encephalitis.

How is it spread?
Measles is transmitted by contact with an infected person through coughing or sneezing and can remain in the air and on surfaces for up to two hours. Infected people are contagious from four days before their rash starts through four days afterwards.

How can you prevent it?
The Illinois Department of Public Health and the Cook County Department of Public Health say vaccinations are the safest, most effective way to protect individuals from measles and other potentially dangerous communicable diseases. Children who are under the age of one or with certain clinical conditions cannot be vaccinated and are therefore at highest risk for measles.
"Residents are strongly encouraged to get vaccinated to protect themselves and the most vulnerable members of the community," IDPH said in a statement.

**The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said one dose of measles vaccine or MMR is about 93 percent effective at preventing measles if exposed to the virus, and two doses is about 97 percent effective.

Typically, measles cases have a history of exposure to a confirmed case of measles or travel to or contact with visitors from areas where cases have been reported.
Even though we take measles very seriously, we also want to provide a reminder that other viral illnesses and reactions to antibiotics can cause a rash that may appear similar to measles.

CCSD 46 has a 99% compliance rate with vaccines. If your child should experience all the symptoms listed above, please see your health care provider as soon as possible. With these symptoms, your student should NOT be sent to school until evaluated by a doctor.

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