Some areas of New York State are currently experiencing a measles outbreak, including the lower Hudson Valley and parts of New York City. There have been no confirmed cases of measles in Chemung County, but it’s important to have the facts.

**Preventing Measles**

Measles is highly contagious and can spread easily. When a person sick with measles coughs or sneezes, the virus gets into the air where it can stay for two hours. Measles can be dangerous to anyone who is not vaccinated.

**Getting the measles vaccine is the best way to prevent measles**

- You are considered immune to measles if you have written proof of 2 valid doses of MMR vaccine, or other live, measles-containing vaccine.
- You are also considered immune to measles if you have a written lab report of immunity, or you were born before 1957.

**Signs and Symptoms of Measles**

Symptoms of measles can appear 7-21 days after being exposed. Symptoms can include:

- High fever
- Cough
- Runny nose
- Red watery eyes
- Rash (see picture): small red spots that give a splotchy red appearance, often starting at the head and spreading down the body

Make sure that you and your children are fully vaccinated. Children receive their first dose of MMR at age 12 months. Children entering kindergarten should have two doses of MMR vaccine.

**Get the Facts!**

For reliable sources of information, visit:

- [cdc.gov/vaccines](http://cdc.gov/vaccines) Center for Disease Control and Prevention
- [aap.org/immunization](http://aap.org/immunization) American Academy of Pediatrics

If you have questions about measles or the measles vaccine, call the Chemung County Health Department at 607-737-2028.