

Professor Fraad

English 1101

Measles Takeover

By Shania Newsam

December 18,2019



What exactly is measles?

Measles is an airborne viral infection that usually occurs in children and the virus can not be removed from the body but it can be treated. Once a person has already had measles, their body becomes immune to the infection and it is impossible for a person to have measles twice. Usually people who were born before the year 1957 may all be immune to the virus because they had a higher chance of exposure during their childhood. In the 1990's President Clinton proposed a decision to create a program that would by millions of dollars with of vaccinations for children in the United States. One reason why some children are not vaccinated is due to parents not being able to afford it and this plan allows children to have the needed vaccinations by the age of two. The president of Lederle-Praxis Biologicals, Dr.Ronald J. Saldarini, became concerned because he feared that if the government became the sole purchaser of the vaccines then the prices of the vaccines would have to be lowered. If the prices were lowered then, it would have affected his investments and possibly delayed the development of new vaccines since the government would not be a reliable buyer. "The government gets interested in vaccines when there is an epidemic" Dr. R. Gordon Douglas says. Once the outbreak is at the level that the government is comfortable with or fully finished then they will not buy any more vaccines at the rates they would be buying th vaccines when the measles outbreak occurred.

How can measles transfer from one person to another?

There are a variety of ways for how this viral can be shared from one person to another. A simple cough or sneeze from the person who was exposed to the virus is one way on how others can obtain the infection from the air. Another way would be through a mother who is conceiving a baby, during her pregnancy or while a mother is nursing a child and has been exposed to measles. Contact between people such as kissing, hugs, sharing drinks or even touch an item that has been contaminated can spread the virus amongst others.



Why are vaccinations important?

Vaccinations are important because it can prevent outbreaks from occurring and spreading from one person to another. There are people who may have religious beliefs vaccines go against or strong beliefs that vaccines are the cause of disorders such as autism. In October 2018, there were six hundred and fifty four cases of measles within New York City and four hundred and

fourteen in the other parts of New York. Jewish communities had the majority of the measles cases because there are unvaccinated children within those communities. In 2019, Mayor Bill de Blasio came up with a solution to prevent the outbreak from becoming worse by having a new law passed in New York in June which states that students must have vaccinations or they cannot attend school. Attending a school without being vaccinated could create an outbreak within the school and it can spread because there are multiple people who are at risk since school is a crowded environment.

How would I know if I have been exposed to measles?

Usually you may experience a dry cough, blotchy spots on your body that will spread and an extremely high fever.

Does this viral infection still exist in 2019 and should I be worried about being exposed to measles?

Measles actually does still exist as of today but it is rare within the United States because most people are vaccinated which makes the virus not as common as before. Although the level of exposure to measles is less than before, people can still be exposed to it because not everyone is vaccinated.

Common Symptoms

- Red Blotchy Skin rash
- Sneezing
- Runny nose
- Sore throat
- Fatigue
- Fever
- Loss of appetite
- Dry cough
- Sensitivity to light