

**McKinney Independent School District
School Health Services**

Rashes Fact Sheet

Differential Diagnosis of Common Childhood Diseases Associated with Rash

	Rubeola (Red measles)	Rubella (German Measles)	Roseola	Scarlet Fever, Scarlatina	Fifth Disease	Varicella (Chicken Pox)
Etiology	Rubeola virus	Rubella virus	Not yet identified, probably several viruses	Group A streptococcus	Parvovirus	Varicella-zoster virus
Characteristics of Rash	Severe red maculopapular, becomes confluent	Mild red maculopapular, remains discrete	Mild red maculopapular, remains discrete	Reddish blush, "goose flesh", fades on pressure	Red (like slapped cheek), lacy and reticulated later	Tiny clear blister with redness around it. Soon forms crust & scab
Part of Body Rash First Appears on	Forehead, behind, ears, face, neck	Forehead, cheeks, neck	Face, chest, abdomen	Upper chest, face	Cheeks	Scalp, face, chest, abdomen
Spreads to	Chest, legs, abdomen, arms	Chest, abdomen	Very slight spread	Lower chest, abdomen, arms	Chest, abdomen, arms, legs	Arms, legs
Progression & Time Intervals for Diagnosis	Fever, then red eyes, then cough. Rash at end of 2 nd or onset of 3 rd day during height of fever	1 st day: fever; 2 nd day: fever and rash; 3 rd day: all gone	1 st -3 rd day: fever; end of 3 rd day or onset of 4 th day: fever goes away & rash appears	Rash & fever begin on 1 st day; 507 days later, skin peels or flakes	Fever for 2-3 days 1 week prior to onset of rash on cheeks; 1-4 days later, lacy rash appears on body	Rash & fever begin at about same time on 1 st -2 nd day; when fever stops, new blister formation stops
Severity of Illness	Usually severe	Usually mild	Mild, but high fever	Mild to moderate	Mild	Mild to moderate; severe in older adolescents & adults
Associated Symptoms Other than Rash	High fever, red eyes, severe cough, mild itch	Low fever, lymph nodes, back of neck & suboccipital	Usually none	Exudative tonsillopharyngitis, sore tongue	Fever mild to moderate	Fever, itching
Complications	Otitis media, pneumonia, encephalitis	Usually none, occasional arthritis	Usually none	Nephritis, carditis	Painful joints, arthritis	Usually none
Period of Inactivity	From 1 day before onset of fever to 1 day after rash appears	From 1 day before onset of fever to 1 day after rash appears	Duration of fever	From 1 day before fever to cure with antibiotics, or 1 week after onset of rash	For 2-3 days about 1 week prior to appearance of facial rash	From 1 day before onset of fever to drying of all crusts or 5 days after 1 st appearance of rash
Additional Information	Preventable with immunization; atypical cases frequent since advent of immunization	Preventable with immunization; virus may infect fetus, notify pregnant teachers	Does not occur after age 3-4	Curable with penicillin/antibiotic; complications are rare but severe; return to school with doctor's permission; scarlet fever & scarlatine are synonyms	Virus may infect fetus; notify pregnant teachers; not contagious when rash appears; may return to school when fever subsides and feels well	Lengthy school exclusion not necessary; 4-7 days usually sufficient