

MEASLES



The data

Measles continues to be one of the **PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH** in young children worldwide.



The disease

- > Measles is a **VERY CONTAGIOUS** viral disease that affects mostly **CHILDREN** and can cause **SEVERE** health problems that can lead to death.
- > Before mass vaccination began in 1980, measles killed **2.6 MILLION** people a year worldwide, **12,000** of them in the Americas.



Symptoms

- > Initial symptoms, which usually appear 10 to 14 days after infection, consist of high fever, malaise, cough, congestion, and conjunctivitis.
- > Small white spots may appear on the inner cheek.
- > Several days later, a rash appears, starting on the face and neck, and gradually spreading to the rest of the body.
- > The most frequent symptoms of measles are diarrhea, ear infection, pneumonia, encephalitis (inflammation of the brain) and laryngotracheo-bronchitis (upper respiratory tract infection that obstructs breathing).
- > **SOME OF THESE COMPLICATIONS CAN LEAD TO DEATH.**



Vaccines

- > Measles vaccines are **EFFECTIVE AND SAFE**.
- > Measles vaccines are available in monovalent preparations (vaccine targeting only one pathogen) or, more frequently, in combination with other vaccines, such as measles, rubella and mumps MMR vaccine (MMR).



Transmission

The virus is transmitted from person to person, through **DROPLETS** from infected persons when speaking,

coughing or breathing. Virus present in the air or on surfaces **REMAINS ACTIVE** and contagious for 2 hours.



Calendar

It is recommended that children should receive two doses of MMR vaccine:

- > 12 months (1st dose)
- > 18 months (2nd dose)