

IDRS Infectious Disease Reporting System

Disease Reporting 24 Hours a Day

Columbus Public Health and Franklin County Public Health

MUMPS

Mumps is a disease caused by the mumps virus and characterized by fever, swelling and tenderness of one or more of the salivary glands located in the upper part of the neck.

Symptoms

The symptoms usually start 2-4 weeks after infection. The symptoms of mumps include:

- Fever
- Headache
- Swelling and tenderness of one or more of the salivary glands located close to the jaw (cheek).
- Approximately one-third of infected people do not exhibit symptoms.
- Some teenage males may have testicle pain. In very rare cases, mumps infection could cause sterility.
- Mumps can cause inflammation and damage to other organs including the brain, testicles, ovaries, joints, and pancreas. In rare cases, mumps might cause sterility or deafness.

Transmission

- Mumps is spread when an infected person coughs or sneezes and sends the mumps virus into the air.
- The virus can land in other people's noses or throats when they breathe or put their fingers in their mouth or nose after handling an infected surface.
- The patient may be contagious for five days after swelling and tenderness of the cheeks/jaw. The most infectious period is two days before the swelling and tenderness begins.
- Anyone who is not immune from either previous mumps infection or from vaccination can get mumps. Before the routine vaccination program was introduced in the United States, mumps was a common illness in infants, children, and young adults. Because most people have now been vaccinated, mumps is now a rare disease in the United States. Mumps is more common during winter and spring.

Treatment

- A health care provider may take a cheek swab or blood sample to help diagnose mumps.
- There is no specific treatment because antibiotics do not work on viruses like mumps.
- Acetaminophen (Tylenol) can be used to reduce the discomfort and fever.

Prevention

- The single most effective way to prevent mumps is to receive the mumps vaccine. It is given on or after a child's first birthday, and is given in combination with the measles and rubella vaccine.
- The MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella) vaccine is highly effective and usually produces lifelong immunity against mumps.
- Children with mumps should not attend school during their infectious period (3 days before symptoms appear to 4 days after).

Additional Information

Although older people may contract the disease, mumps usually occurs in children between the ages of 5 and 15. The greatest risk of infection occurs among older children. Mumps is more common during winter and spring.

All information is general in nature and is not intended to be used as a substitute for appropriate professional advice.



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