
Mumps

Description: Mumps is caused by a virus. Complications can occur, including inflammation of the spinal cord and brain, sterility or death (rare).

Symptoms: When present, symptoms include swelling of one or both of the salivary glands (under the jaw or in front of the ear), fever, chills and headache. Approximately 30 percent of the cases will have only mild symptoms or no symptoms at all. In teenage and adult males, tenderness in the testicles may also occur. Teenage and adult females may have some lower abdominal pain.

How it is Spread: It is spread by contact with droplets from the sneeze or cough of an infected person or contact with saliva. Spread can also occur if the infected person contaminates his hands with saliva or nasal secretions and then touches items that others may then touch.

Incubation Period: 12-25 days; usually 16-18 days.

How Long Can a Person Pass the Infection To Others? The infection can be spread to others up to six days before swelling of the glands begins and up to nine days after the onset of swelling.

Responsibilities of Parents and Caregivers:

- Notify the local health department. (See ODH Communicable Disease Chart)
- Parents should notify caregiver about their child's infection.
- Notify parents of children exposed and all children in the center who have not been immunized.

Control of Spread:

- The child must be excluded from child care for nine days following onset of swelling and until the swelling subsides.
- Make sure all children and adults follow good hand washing practices

Treatment: None.

Comments: Children should be immunized against mumps at 12 months of age along with measles and rubella (MMR vaccine). A second dose is given at admission to school. The vaccine provides long-term immunity. Illness provides lifelong immunity.