Journal of Prevention and Infection Control
ISSN: 2471-9668

Open access Commentary

Measles: Eradicating a Resurgent Foe

Dravid Sindey*

Department of Science, University of California, USA

DESCRIPTION

Measles, a highly contagious viral infection caused by the measles virus, has long been a concern for global health. Despite the availability of an effective vaccine, recent years have witnessed a resurgence of measles outbreaks in various regions, highlighting the importance of understanding the disease's characteristics, history, vaccination, challenges in control, and strategies to prevent its spread. Measles is not a recent adversary; its presence has been documented for centuries. Prior to the introduction of the measles vaccine, the disease was a significant cause of childhood morbidity and mortality worldwide. With widespread vaccination programs, significant progress was made, leading to a substantial decline in measles cases. However, recent years have seen a resurgence, partially due to vaccine hesitancy and gaps in immunization coverage. Measles is highly contagious and spreads through respiratory droplets when an infected person coughs or sneezes. The virus can survive in the air and on surfaces for several hours, making it incredibly easy to contract. Symptoms typically appear around days after exposure and include fever, cough, runny nose, red eyes (conjunctivitis), and a characteristic rash that spreads across the body. While many individuals recover from measles without complications, it can lead to severe health issues, especially in vulnerable populations such as young children and those with weakened immune systems. Complications may include pneumonia, encephalitis (brain inflammation), and in rare cases, death. Measles infection can also suppress the immune system for several weeks to months, making individuals more susceptible to other infections. The measles vaccine, usually administered as the Measles-Mumps-Rubella (MMR) vaccine, is highly effective in preventing the disease. It provides long-term protection, with two doses typically recommended for optimal immunity. Widespread vaccination programs have significantly reduced the burden of measles, preventing millions of cases and deaths globally. Despite the vaccine's efficacy, challenges remain in achieving and maintaining high immunization coverage. Vaccine hesitancy, driven by misinformation, mistrust in healthcare systems, and complacency, has led to pockets of unvaccinated individuals, allowing the virus to spread rapidly in these communities. The spread of misinformation about vaccine safety and efficacy poses a significant obstacle to achieving herd immunity. International organizations, governments, and public health agencies advocate for vaccination and support immunization programs to control measles outbreaks. Initiatives such as the Measles & Rubella Initiative and the Global Vaccine Action Plan aim to increase vaccine access, strengthen healthcare systems, and raise awareness about the importance of vaccination in preventing measles and other vaccine-preventable diseases. The goal of measles elimination, defined as the absence of continuous transmission for more than months in a specific geographic area, remains a priority for global health organizations. Achieving elimination requires sustained high vaccination coverage, effective surveillance systems, rapid outbreak response, and strategies to reach underserved populations. When outbreaks occur, prompt response and containment are crucial. Measures include identifying and isolating infected individuals, tracing contacts, ensuring vaccination of susceptible individuals, and implementing public health interventions to limit the spread of the virus. Timely and transparent communication with the public is essential in gaining cooperation and trust. Research in measles focuses on developing new vaccine formulations, including single-dose vaccines, improving vaccine delivery methods, and addressing vaccine hesitancy through targeted communication strategies. Additionally, studies on the virus's genetic diversity and evolution help understand transmission patterns and inform outbreak response strategies. Measles, once on the brink of elimination, has resurged, posing a renewed threat to global health.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

None.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

Received:	29-November-2023	**Manuscript No:**	IPJPIC-23-18546
Editor assigned:	01-December-2023	**PreQC No:**	IPJPIC-23-18546 (PQ)
Reviewed:	15-December-2023	**QC No:**	IPJPIC-23-18546
Revised:	20-December-2023	**Manuscript No:**	IPJPIC-23-18546 (R)
Published:	27-December-2023	**DOI:**	10.36648/2471-9668-9.4.32

Corresponding author Dravid Sindey, Department of Science, University of California, USA, E-mail: davidsndy@gmail.com

Citation Sindey D (2023) Measles: Eradicating a Resurgent Foe. J Prevent Infect Control. 9:32.