

Mumps General Information

What is mumps?

Mumps is a disease caused by a virus.

What are the symptoms?

Symptoms may include:

- fever, headache, muscle aches
- swollen and tender glands at angle of the jaw
- swollen and tender testicles in teenage and adult men

Some people may not have any symptoms at all.

How is mumps spread?

Mumps is spread by contact with discharge from the nose or throat. The mumps virus can be spread for a few days before symptoms appear and for up to 5 days after.

Adults and children with mumps must stay home from any group setting for five days after they first have symptoms. This includes school, college or university, childcare facilities, and workplaces.

Who can get mumps?

Most often, it is school-age children who get mumps. Young adults may also get it.

Is it serious?

Mumps can be serious. Most people recover but mumps can lead to meningitis (a swelling of the covering of the brain), swelling of the ovaries, inflammation of the pancreas, and short-term or permanent hearing loss. These reactions are rare, but they do happen.

Mumps can be especially serious for pregnant women. Pregnant women who get mumps risk having a miscarriage, premature or early labour, and low birth weight babies.

Pregnant women who are in contact with anyone who has mumps should contact their family doctor.

What is the treatment?

There is no treatment for mumps.

How can you prevent mumps?

Getting vaccinated is your best protection against mumps. All children should receive mumps vaccine twice: at one year of age and again before they start school. The vaccine is given with the measles, rubella and chicken pox vaccine.

If you have **not** had mumps or **not** received the mumps vaccine, avoid close contact with anyone who has mumps.