Measles strikes once again! Measles is back killing more than 200 000 people!

What it is:

Measles is a highly contagious viral illness characterized by fever, cough, runny nose, red eyes, and a distinctive rash which can lead to serious conditions like pneumonia. Its preventable by a special vaccine. It’s extremely contagious as it can be spread easily through the air if someone sneezes or coughs.

What it can cause:

Some initial symptoms are fever, cough, runny nose and a distinctive rash. It causes and ear infection while potentially leading to encephalitis (head inflammation) and pneumonia. A red blotchy rash appears a few days after catching the disease. It starts on the face and soon spreads to the rest of the body. It can also cause serious diarrhoea that if not treated properly, may be fatal.

Statistics:

Measles is one of the most contagious diseases, with up to 9 in 10 people who are not immune to measles becoming infected after exposure. Globally, between 2000 and 2023, vaccination successfully prevented an estimated 60 million deaths and decreased measles deaths from 800,062 in 2000 to 107,500 in 2023.

About 1 in 15 children with measles develops pneumonia, and 1 in 1,000 develops encephalitis (swelling of the brain). In the United States, about 1 to 2 in 1000 children with measles die. The history of Measles is full of sorrow as before the measles vaccine was introduced, an estimated 48,000 people were hospitalized and 400–500 people died in the United States each year.