

## Diseases in Rhode Island

Rhode Island has a relatively high rate of vaccinations compared to some parts of the country.

This keeps us safe from many diseases such as mumps, measles, rubella and pertussis.

This is mostly due to the requirements put on children entering public schools requiring young children to be up to date with their vaccines.

A few diseases that seem to go unnoticed are mumps, measles, rubella, pertussis, diphtheria, rotavirus, varicella (chickenpox), rubella, tetanus HPV and polio.

Name of Disease	Common Name	Spread By	Consequences	Deaths
Mumps	Mumps	Coughing/Sneezing and direct contact	Rarely deafness or sterility	1 in 10,000
Measles	Measles	Coughing/Sneezing and stays in the air	Potential Deafness, brain damage, death	28% of children under five went to the hospital
Pertussis	Whooping Cough	Contact with infected people	Broken Ribs	90% of deaths are in infants
Diphtheria	Diphtheria	Air and contaminated objects	Nerve damage and paralysis	40-50% die without treatment
Rotavirus	Rotavirus	Stool and objects and contaminated food	Severe dehydration	453,000 Deaths of infants around the world yearly
Varicella	Chickenpox	Coughing or sneezing or touching resulting blisters	Blisters and rashes. May become singles	50 deaths yearly in the USA
Rubella	Rubella	Coughing or sneezing	May cause mental serious birth defects	No specific treatment
Tetanus	Tetanus	Cuts/Puncture wounds	Stiff muscles, muscle spasms	20% of reported cases result in death
Human Papillomavirus	HPV	Sexual Contact	Genital warts Any genital cancer	Deaths are from resulting cancers
Polio	Polio	Person to person, feces,	Irreversible paralysis	

Information from [www.ecbt.org](http://www.ecbt.org), WHO and the CDC websites.

All of these diseases can be prevented by safe and effective vaccines that are widely available. One of the best ways for a student at LHS to get their vaccinations is through the “Vaccinate before you Graduate” system which aims to get students up to date on their vaccinations before they go to collage.