

Ministry of Health

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March 7, 2025

MEMORANDUM

TO: Medical Officers of Health
Associate Medical Officers of Health

FROM: Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health

RE: Measles Preparedness and Response

Dear Colleagues,

We have seen measles cases on the rise in southwestern Ontario linking back to an exposure at a large gathering with guests from Mennonite communities in New Brunswick last fall. As of February 26, 2025, there were 177 cases of [measles](#) reported in Ontario related to this outbreak predominantly in Grand Erie and Southwestern public health units. Additionally, exposures and subsequent cases have been reported in Manitoba from family visits in Ontario.

Over 90% of cases in Ontario linked to this outbreak are among unimmunized individuals. Cases could spread in any unvaccinated community or population but are disproportionately affecting some Mennonite, Amish, and other Anabaptist communities due to a combination of under-immunization and exposure to measles in certain areas.

The increase of cases in Ontario and additional exposures from travel anticipated over March Break, it is strongly recommended that:

- Health care providers are alerted to include measles in their differential diagnoses, particularly in those with respiratory symptoms and those who have travelled to high-risk areas, including within Ontario.

- As a reportable disease, and any suspected cases of measles should be promptly reported by health care providers to their local public health agency.
- Suspected measles cases should be placed under airborne precautions and tested. More information on testing can be found on the PHO website ([Measles – Diagnostic – PCR](#), [Measles – Serology](#))
- Health care providers should support patients with receiving all routine immunizations (including measles) according to the [Publicly Funded Immunization Schedules for Ontario](#).
- In Ontario, two doses of measles vaccine are routinely given, the first dose at one year of age and the second dose at four to six years of age.

Additional immunization recommendations:

Along with routine immunizations, **the following is advised for individuals who live, work, travel (e.g., family visit), worship, or spend time in affected regions and communities with measles cases and where the risk of exposure is higher.** This currently includes the Grand Erie and Southwestern local public health agencies and will continue to be reassessed as needed:

- *Infants (six to 11 months):* Should receive one dose of the measles, mumps, rubella (MMR) vaccine. Two additional doses continue to be recommended after the age of one year.
- *Children (one to four years):* Children who have received their first dose of measles-containing vaccine are encouraged to receive a second dose as soon as possible (at a minimum of four weeks from the first dose).
- *Adults (18+ years) born on or after 1970:* A second dose of MMR vaccine is recommended.

Additional information:

- [About measles | ontario.ca](#)
- [Measles | Public Health Ontario](#) – Outbreak updates & resources
- [Updated recommendations on measles post-exposure prophylaxis, National Advisory Committee on Immunization \(NACI\)](#)
- Details on testing and specimens is available on the [PHO website](#)
 - [Measles – Diagnostic – PCR](#)
 - [Measles – Serology](#)
- eCTAS notifications continue to be updated and distributed.

The ministry has updated Ontario Health and is planning communication to hospitals on ensuring immunoglobulin (IMlg and IVlg) supply is monitored. Canadian Blood Services has indicated that there are no supply concerns.

The provincial vaccine supply is being monitored and additional doses of vaccines are being ordered as needed.

The ministry continues to meet with the affected public health units and Public Health Ontario and will provide provincial updates at the Public Health Sector Coordination Table or via written correspondence as required.

Thank you for your continued efforts in ensuring Ontarians are protected from vaccine preventable diseases.

Sincerely,



Dr. Kieran Michael Moore, MD, CCFP(EM), FCFP, MPH, DTM&H, FRCPC, FCAHS
Chief Medical Officer of Health and Assistant Deputy Minister

- C: Elizabeth Walker, Executive Lead, Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health
Dr. Daniel Warshafsky, Associate Chief Medical Officer of Health, Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health
Matthew Anderson, President and CEO, Ontario Health
Dr. Chris Simpson, Executive Vice President, Acute and Hospital-Based Care and Chief Medical Executive, Ontario Health
Michael Sherar, President and Chief Executive Officer, Public Health Ontario