



Monday, April 14, 2008

For Immediate Release

## Potential measles exposure in York Region

**NEWMARKET** – The Regional Municipality of York’s Public Health Branch has confirmed that an individual with the measles virus may have unknowingly and unintentionally exposed others to this illness at two specific York Region locations.

Individuals who visited the following locations, at the following dates and times – **who have not already been contacted by York Region Public Health** – are advised to call York Region’s *Health Connection* at 1-800-361-5653 for assessment.

Location	Date/Time
Quizno’s Sandwich Shop 2701 Rutherford Road, City of Vaughan	Sunday, April 6 <sup>th</sup> : 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
All In One Medical Clinic 10083 Keele Street, City of Vaughan	Monday, April 7 <sup>th</sup> : 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 9 <sup>th</sup> : 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

York Region’s *Health Connection* will remain open until 8 p.m. tonight and will re-open tomorrow (Tuesday) at 8:30 a.m.

“The risk of measles to the general public is low,” said Dr. Karim Kurji, York Region’s Medical Officer of Health and Director of Public Health Programs. “Most people born before 1970 were exposed to measles as a child, and therefore have built a natural immunity to the virus. Those born after 1970 most likely received the measles vaccine before entering and/or while attending elementary school.”

This is the first confirmed case of measles in York Region since 2006.

Measles is a respiratory infection that is caused by a virus. It is one of the most easily transmitted person-to-person viruses. It is spread by droplets and/or direct contact with the nasal and throat secretions (from sneezing, coughing and talking) of an infected person. The measles virus can also be spread through the air for a limited time. A person with measles can infect others from four days before to four days after the onset of the rash (please see symptoms below).

Measles is characterized by a sudden onset of a high fever, cold-like symptoms (cough and runny nose), small white spots on the inside of the mouth, pinkeye and sensitivity to light.

Approximately three days after the initial onset of symptoms, a red rash is likely to appear on the face and eventually spreads to the rest of the body. The rash lasts for approximately six days.

“Most people who get the measles are sick for approximately 10 days and recover completely without the need for any treatment,” said Dr. Kurji.

However, infants under the age of one and people who are not naturally immune or adequately immunized are the most at risk for the complications due to the measles virus. Pregnant women and those who are immune compromised are also at an increase risk for measles complications. Complications can include diarrhea, ear infection and pneumonia. Death, although very rare, can occur from severe complications.

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The best way to prevent measles is by getting the measles vaccine. Anyone born after 1970 should have documentation of at least two doses of measles vaccine or other evidence of immunity to measles. Speak to your physician about your immunization status and bring it up to date, if necessary.

At this time, there is no evidence to support that this confirmed York Region case is related to the current measles outbreak in the City of Toronto.

For more information on the Regional Municipality of York and our services, please visit [www.york.ca](http://www.york.ca)

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