

Measles Updates for York Region Health Care Professionals

March 12, 2026

Recent measles exposures in York Region and reminder about vaccinations

At this time York Region Public Health (YRPH) is [investigating exposures](#) to a newly confirmed measles case from outside of our jurisdiction and notifying the public of six public measles exposure sites related to the case. The case, who acquired measles outside Canada, was in York Region while contagious.

Measles continues to circulate in Canada and around the world. With increased measles activity globally, and as March Break approaches with more residents planning to travel, timely vaccination is critical in protecting individuals and preventing transmission. **Please consider reviewing your patients' immunization status and engage in discussions to ensure they are fully vaccinated against measles and other vaccine preventable diseases.**

Measles vaccine eligibility and schedule

Two doses of the *Measles, Mumps, Rubella* (MMR) vaccine or *Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Varicella* (MMRV) vaccine are approximately 97% effective in preventing measles infection. The vaccines are safe, effective and essential for preventing spread or outbreaks of the virus.

- Children in Ontario typically receive their first dose of a measles-containing vaccine after 12 months of age and their second dose between the ages of four and six
 - Measles-containing vaccine may be given to infants aged six to 11 months if travelling to areas where measles is of concern.* Two additional doses of measles-containing vaccine must be given after the child is 12 months old to ensure long-lasting immunity
 - Children 1 to 4 years of age who travel to an area where measles is of concern may receive an early second dose of measles-containing vaccine. It must be separated by a minimum interval of ≥ 4 weeks from one another and from other live attenuated vaccines
- Adults born in or after 1970 require two doses of measles vaccine
- Adults born before 1970 are likely to have had measles infection in the past and are considered immune. However, travellers born before 1970 who do not have evidence of immunity should receive one dose of measles-containing vaccine

*Travelers can refer to the Government of Canada's [Travel Health Notice](#) or check the provincial and territorial websites for measles related information.

York Region Public Health offers MMR/MMRV vaccine appointments for individuals aged 12 months to 55 years old (born in 1970 or later). Early doses of MMR are also available for infants aged 6 to 11 months (before their first birthday) who reside in or will be travelling to an area with increased measles activity, within Canada or internationally. Appointments are free of charge and an OHIP card is not required. Appointments can be booked [here](#).

More information on the routine immunization schedule can be found here: [Publicly Funded Immunization Schedules for Ontario](#). Travel related immunization recommendations can be found in PHO's newly released [Measles: Information for Health Care Providers](#) and the [Canadian Immunization Guide](#).

Suspecting measles

Risk factors that may raise the index of suspicion for measles include: incomplete vaccination, recent travel history and recent attendance at an exposure event.

Signs and symptoms of measles include:

- **Prodromal symptoms:** Fever, cough, rhinorrhea, conjunctivitis, and/or Koplik spots (small red spots in the mouth with white or bluish-white centers)
- **Morbilliform rash:** A dusky red, blotchy rash that typically begins on the face and spreads distally down the trunk and extremities. The rash typically begins on the third to seventh day of prodromal symptom onset and lasts four to seven days

Infections can occur in individuals who are partially vaccinated or even in those who are fully vaccinated. The signs and symptoms in these cases may be atypical or less pronounced.

Immediately test and report suspected measles cases to YRPH

Follow provincial guidelines on specimen collection and handling for any suspected measles cases. Please promptly perform ALL the diagnostic tests listed below. If the index of suspicion is high, testing can be done beyond recommended time periods:

- **Urine for PCR testing:** Within 14 days of rash onset
- **Nasopharyngeal swab or throat swab for PCR testing:** Within 7 days of rash onset
- **Acute serology (IgM and IgG):** Within 7 days of rash onset

To expedite the processing of specimens, please call YRPH at 905-830-4444 ext. 73588, Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., or after hours at 905-953-6478. YRPH will help arrange transportation of specimens to the Public Health Ontario Laboratory (PHOL) in Toronto.

If you have a high degree of suspicion for a measles case, report it to YRPH immediately. Measles is a reportable disease of public health significance under the Health Protection and Promotion Act (HPPA).

- Please call us at **1-877-464-9675 ext. 73588** (Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) or **905-953-6478** after hours (before 8:30 a.m. and after 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday or 24 hours per day on weekends/holidays)

Important: Please instruct your patient to isolate at home after leaving your clinical facility and that public health will contact them with further direction and support

Additional Measles Resources

- PHO: [How to Recognize and Respond to Measles](#)
- PHO: [Measles Information for Clinicians](#)
- PHO: [Measles Serological Testing Information](#)
- PHO: [Measles Diagnostic PCR Testing information](#)
- PHOL: [Requisition for Specimen Containers and Supplies](#)
- PHO: [Infection Prevention and Control for Clinical Office Practice](#)
- PHO: [Interim IPAC Recommendations and Use of PPE for Care of Individuals with Suspect or Confirmed Measles](#)
- [Measles Fact Sheet for Patients](#)

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