

Memo

To: Healthcare Providers

From: Infectious Diseases Team

Date: January 31, 2025

Re: Measles Prevention Urged at all Health Care Settings



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January 31, 2025

From the office of Dr. Malcom Lock, Acting Medical Officer of Health, Grand Erie Public Health

Measles Prevention Urged at all Health Care Settings

Grand Erie Public Health (GEPH) is urging healthcare providers to assist in measles prevention efforts following the recent announcement of community outbreak in the region which includes Haldimand County, Norfolk County, Brantford, and Brant County.

PREVENTATIVE ACTIONS TO TAKE:

- Place signage at the entrances of all clinical settings (e.g., waiting rooms or emergency triage areas) advising individuals not to enter if they have been exposed to, are showing symptoms of, or suspect they may have measles. Include a contact number for them to call, so that infection prevention and control (IPAC) measures can be prepared for their arrival. GEPH has created a [template you can use, print, and post](#).
- Inform patients about the importance of calling ahead to healthcare facilities if they have been exposed to, show symptoms of, or suspect they may have measles. By calling in advance, staff can implement infection prevention and control (IPAC) measures to prepare for the arrival of a potential measles case.
- Re-educate clinical and support staff on specimen collection ([PCR](#) and [serology](#)) and [IPAC precautions](#) for measles, including conducting an assessment of PPE supplies and PPE fit-testing.

- Consider implementing symptom screening before patients enter your healthcare setting (e.g., through self-assessment signage, pre-appointment calls, or staff-led screening of patients, visitors, and support persons at entrances).
- Immunize patients in your roster who are not up-to-date and eligible for a dose of measles-containing vaccine. Ensure your staff are also up-to-date and have ready access to their immunization records.

RESPONSIVE ACTIONS TO TAKE:

- Verify the vaccination status of patients who report a possible exposure to measles and ensure symptoms of measles are being monitored for up to 21 days after their last exposure.
- Contact GEPH if an infant under 12 months of age or pregnant and/or immunocompromised patients reports an exposure to measles as they may be eligible for immunoglobulin;
- Immunize patients who are not up-to-date and eligible for a dose of measles-containing vaccine;
- Complete diagnostic testing, counsel patient(s) to isolate and report to public health any suspect case of measles (i.e., symptoms compatible with measles; symptomatic contact).
- [Follow Measles: Information for Health Care Providers](#) for patients seeking medical care following exposure to measles, or with measles-like symptoms; AND
- Report any exposures or any suspect cases of measles to GEPH immediately.

IF YOU ARE INVESTIGATING A SUSPECT CASE OF MEASLES, ISOLATE THE PATIENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND REPORT TO GRAND ERIE PUBLIC HEALTH IMMEDIATELY. Do not wait for [laboratory confirmation](#) of measles.

To report to GEPH:

- **Brantford - Brant: 519-753-4937 ext. 454**
- **Haldimand-Norfolk: 519-426-6170 or 905-318-6623**

RESOURCES:

- [Measles: Information for Healthcare Providers \(Public Health Ontario, September 2024\)](#)