

Memo

To: Healthcare Providers

From: Infectious Diseases Team Date:

April 29, 2025

Re: Measles Preparedness and Response Update



SCAN Me

On October 18th, 2024, exposure to a travel-related case in New Brunswick led to measles cases in Ontario. As of April 16, 2025, there were 925 cases of measles reported in Ontario related to the New Brunswick outbreak predominantly in Grand Erie Public Health and Southwestern Public Health jurisdictions. Over 90% of cases in Ontario linked to this outbreak are among unimmunized individuals.

Key Messages for Health Care Providers:

- Health care providers are encouraged to include measles in their differential diagnoses, particularly in those with respiratory symptoms and those who have travelled to high-risk areas, and locally.
- Promptly report any suspected cases of measles to Grand Erie Public Health [GEPH]:
 - Haldimand-Norfolk: 519-426-6170 ext. 3438 (After-hours: 1-877-298-5888)
 - Brantford-Brant: 519-753-4937 ext. 454 (After-hours: stay on the line to speak to an operator)
- Ensure your office has testing specimen containers, supplies, and requisitions for all 3 measles tests: Nasopharyngeal Swab/Throat Swab, Urine and Serology. Check expiry dates of specimen kits. Additional kits can be ordered from [Public Health Ontario Lab](#). For each laboratory requisition, clearly mark “suspect case of measles”.
- Suspected measles cases should be placed under airborne precautions and tested. More information on IPAC measures and [testing](#) can be found on the Public Health Ontario website.
 - GEPH is **piloting a measles self-testing initiative**. Health care providers unable to test patients are requested to call GEPH to conduct an assessment and determine suitability to coordinate self-testing for patients. Specimens must be submitted by individuals with measles-compatible symptoms, and for measles testing only.
- Utilize the attached template when sending measles exposure line lists to GEPH. A copy of the template can also be found on our websites:

- Haldimand-Norfolk: <https://hnhu.org/health-care-professionals/>
- Brantford-Brant: <https://bchu.org/professionals-partners/healthpro-infectiousdiseases/>
- 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.
- 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](#)

Thank you for your continued diligence in working collaboratively with the health unit.

The Infectious Disease Team

The Haldimand-Norfolk Health Unit and Brant County Health Unit have merged! While our name might be different, our programs and services will remain the same across the Brantford-Brant and Haldimand-Norfolk regions at current operating locations until further notice