

MEASLES VACCINE ELIGIBILITY

Prevention/Vaccine Eligibility

To prevent measles, get your child immunized with a measles containing vaccine (MMR or MMRV). All Ontarians should ensure they are fully vaccinated against measles, especially before travelling.

As of February 10, 2025, those who live, play, travel to, worship or otherwise, in the Grand Erie Public Health (GEPH) and Southwestern Public Health (SWPH) regions:

- Expanded eligibility for infants 6 months to 11 months of age
- Accelerated schedule for second doses in children under 4 years of age
- Second dose for adults born in and after 1970

EXPANDED ELIGIBILITY FOR INFANTS 6 MONTHS TO 11 MONTHS:

- To create additional protection for this highly vulnerable age group, an additional publicly funded dose of measles containing vaccine can now be provided to infants 6 months to 11 months of age.
- The use of MMR vaccine down to 6 months of age for infants at risk of measles exposure (in the setting of an outbreak-affected area or travel) is a long-standing off-label vaccine recommendation from the National Advisory Council on Immunization (NACI).
- Priorix® or MMRII® may be used interchangeably and are both safe to provide for 6mo and older.
- Two additional doses of measles containing vaccine must be administered after 12 months of age (and at least 28 days after the previous dose) to ensure long-lasting immunity to measles.

ACCELERATED SCHEDULE FOR SECOND DOSES:

- To increase immunization coverage among children and prevent complications from measles infection that are more common under the age of 5 years, the second dose of the measles-containing vaccine scheduled at 4-6 years of age should instead be provided as early as 28 days from the previous dose.
- At an interval of 28 days or beyond, the second dose is considered valid under the Immunization of School Pupils Act and effective to provide long-lasting immunity. An additional dose of measles-containing vaccine at 4-6 years would not be required.

SECOND DOSE FOR ADULTS BORN IN AND AFTER 1970:

- To further mitigate the risk of ongoing transmission in the community, adults born in and after 1970 with only one dose of measles-containing vaccine should be offered a second dose.
- Individuals born prior to 1970 in Canada are likely to have immunity as the result of being exposed to measles through natural infection.

THOSE BORN PRIOR TO 1970:

Individuals born prior to 1970 in Canada are likely to have immunity as the result of being exposed to measles through natural infection.

- Eligible for two doses if a health care worker or military personnel.

For more information, please visit www.hnhu.org/measles or www.bchu.org/measles.