



ADVISORY

Measles Preparedness

Friday, February 23, 2024

The following is intended to inform you on the current prevalence of measles globally and act as preparation for potential outbreaks locally.

Situation:

- Increased measles activity is being reported globally due to travel and low vaccination rates
- There are currently four cases of measles in Canada; two of the Canadian cases are in Ontario. One in [Peel Region](#) - February 13, 2024, and one in the [City of Toronto](#) - February 16, 2024

Health Care Provider Role:

With recent measles outbreaks in Ontario, and anticipated global travel occurring over the March Break, **we are asking that all local health care providers:**

- **support patients with receiving [all routine vaccinations](#)** (including measles) following the [Publicly Funded Immunization Schedules for Ontario](#); communicate with patients that [vaccines are safe and effective](#).
 - For the best protection, children should receive the two recommended doses of the measles vaccine. The vaccine is given no earlier than the 1st birthday and prior to 16 months of age and between 4 to 6 years of age
 - Vaccination is also publicly funded for adults, if they have never had measles or been vaccinated.
- **include measles in your differential diagnosis**, particularly in patients who are returning travelers with respiratory symptoms.
- **Report suspected cases of measles** to Peterborough Public Health immediately, by calling 705-743-1000 ext. 511

Site-level IPAC intervention(s)

- Patients who present to hospital or a clinic with suspected measles should be placed under airborne precautions and managed under [Airborne Precautions and Routine Practices](#).
- Measles should be suspected in returning travelers with a febrile illness and rash or other signs and symptoms of measles, particularly in susceptible (unvaccinated) individuals.
- Prior to collection of clinical specimens, refer to the PHOL Measles – [Diagnostic PCR](#) and [Measles - Serology](#) test information sheets.

Measles Virus:

Symptoms

Symptoms of measles include fever, runny nose (coryza), cough, drowsiness, irritability and conjunctivitis. Small white spots (known as "Koplik's spots") can appear on the inside of the mouth and throat but are not always present. Within 3 – 7 days of the onset of symptoms, a red blotchy (maculopapular) rash appears on the face and then progresses down the body. (See Appendix A for images of symptoms)

Mode(s) of transmission

Measles is highly contagious. The measles virus is spread by contact with respiratory particles (through inhalation or contact with mucous membranes) at short and long range (e.g. airborne). These particles can remain suspended and contagious in the air for up to two hours, depending on the number of air exchanges. An infected person is contagious 2 days before any symptoms show and remains infectious for at least 5 days after the onset of rash.

Additional resources

- [Measles: The Immunization Well-Child Toolkit | ontario.ca](#)
- [Measles: Public Health Ontario](#)
- [Measles: For health professionals](#) (Health Canada)
- For more information on travel health and safety, please visit the [Government of Canada website](#)

Appendix A



Koplik spots Day 1



Rash Day 3

