

HALTON REGION HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
TEL: 905-825-6000 FAX: 905-825-1444

TO: Halton Physicians

Medical Chiefs of Staff: Joseph Brant Hospital, Halton Healthcare (Oakville, Milton and Georgetown Hospitals)  
Chairs of: Family Practice, Paediatrics, Internal Medicine, Emergency, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Surgery  
Chief of Laboratory Services and Infection Control Practitioners

POST IN: Emergency Department and Physicians Lounge

FROM: Dr. Hamidah Meghani, Medical Officer of Health

DATE: December 19, 2018

**RE: Confirmed Measles Case and Exposure Sites**

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The Halton Region Health Department is investigating a confirmed case of measles in Burlington. The case had onset of rash on December 17 and was potentially infectious December 13 to 21, inclusive.

Persons who have visited any of the following locations may have been exposed to measles:

- **Homewood Suites by Hilton, Burlington – 975 Syscon Rd, Burlington**
  - Thursday, December 13 to Sunday December 16 - 8:30 am–10:00 pm (entire facility)
  - Monday, December 17 – 8:30 am – 3:00 pm (entire facility)
- **Longo's– 3455 Wyecroft Rd, Oakville**
  - Thursday, December 13 – 12:30 pm – 3:15 pm
  - Friday, December 14 – 12:30 pm – 4:00 pm
  - Saturday, December 15 - 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm
- **Cogeco – 950 Syscon Rd, Burlington**
  - Friday, December 14 – 10:30 am – 3:00 pm
- **Outlet Collection at Niagara – 300 Taylor Rd, Niagara-on-the-Lake**
  - Saturday, December 15 – 11:30 am – 4:00 pm, especially at Gap, Calvin Klein and Guess stores
- **Amsterdam BrewHouse – 245 Queens Quay W, Toronto**
  - Sunday, December 16 – 2:30 pm – 6:00 pm

Measles is a communicable virus that causes prodromal fever, conjunctivitis, coryza, cough and Koplik spots. A characteristic red blotchy rash appears on the face within 3 to 7 days and then progresses down the body. The average incubation period of measles is 10 to 12 days from exposure to prodrome and 14 days from exposure to rash (range: 7 to 21 days). Persons are infectious 4 days before to 4 days after rash onset.

Susceptible contacts include:

- Unvaccinated or under-vaccinated individuals
  - Those over age 18, but born on or after 1970, require one dose of measles-containing vaccine
  - Those under 18, require two doses of measles-containing vaccine
  - Those working with high-risk populations (e.g. health care workers, day care workers, etc.) require two doses of measles-containing vaccine
- Immunocompromised individuals
- Pregnant women
- Infants under 12 months

In Canada, persons born before 1970 are considered to have natural protection. One dose of measles vaccine after the first birthday protects 85 to 95%, while a second dose brings this close to 100%. Susceptible contacts should monitor for signs and symptoms and be excluded from attending or working in daycare, school, or healthcare settings for 21 days from their exposure dates.

MMR vaccine, if given within 72 hours of exposure, may provide protection in immunocompetent susceptible contacts over 6 months of age. Immune globulin (Ig) intramuscularly may prevent or modify measles if given within 6 days of exposure in susceptible contacts who have a medical contraindication to MMR vaccine (infants under 6 months, pregnant women and immunocompromised individuals) and in infants between the ages of 6 and 12 months who are beyond 3 days but still within 6 days of exposure. If you are seeing patients that are eligible for Ig call Halton Region Health Department to assist and arrange this with client and hospital.

**Patients with suspect measles should be seen at the end of the day and provided with a mask and isolated in a separate room upon arrival. They should also be advised to isolate him/herself at home until 4 days after the onset of rash.**

Include both **serology** and **virus isolation/detection** to confirm measles:

- A **blood specimen** to test for measles antibodies (IgM and IgG)
- Virus isolation/detection by **nasopharyngeal swab or aspirate**, or a **throat swab** obtained within 4–7 days after the onset of rash, **and/or**
- Approximately 50 mL of **urine** within 14 days after the onset of rash
- If acute serology is inconclusive, follow-up serology is necessary: A second blood specimen drawn 7–10 days after the first sample to check for seroconversion or a significant rise in measles specific IgG antibodies between acute and convalescent sera
- Clearly mark laboratory requisitions with “suspect case of measles” to facilitate rapid testing. Clinical findings, date of rash onset, and travel history are also helpful

For further information about diagnostic testing, contact the Public Health Ontario Laboratories or refer to the Public Health Ontario Laboratory Services webpage:

<http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/ServicesAndTools/LaboratoryServices/Pages/default.aspx>

To find your nearest Public Health Unit, please visit <https://www.phdapps.health.gov.on.ca/phulocator/>

Please report all suspected or confirmed cases of [Diseases of Public Health Significance](#) (formerly Reportable Diseases) to the Halton Region Health Department as soon as possible. Diseases marked \* should be reported immediately by telephone (24 hours a day, 7 days a week) or fax (Mon-Fri, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm only). Other diseases can be reported the next working day. Call 311, 905-825-6000 or toll free at 1-866-442-5866. For general information, please visit **halton.ca**.

**If any link provided in this memo does not work, please cut and paste it into your web browser.**