

## HALTON REGION PUBLIC HEALTH • Office of the Medical Officer of Health

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TO: Halton Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Emergency Departments, other Healthcare Providers

FROM: Dr. Patrick Galange, Associate Medical Officer of Health

DATE: May 13, 2025

RE: Updated measles vaccine recommendations for new outbreak affected areas may result in increased immunization requests

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### QUICK FACTS

- The Ministry of Health has [updated measles vaccine recommendations](#) for certain health units due to an increased risk of exposure in those areas. Halton Region is not currently experiencing outbreak-related cases of measles.
- People who live, work, attend school, travel, worship or spend time in these affected areas are recommended to receive measles vaccine according to the recommendations below:
  - Chatham-Kent
  - Grey Bruce
  - Lambton
  - Middlesex-London
  - Waterloo
  - Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph
  - Windsor-Essex
  - Southwestern
  - Grand Erie
  - Huron Perth
- Some child care centres and schools in these areas have issued communications to patients advising them of the updated vaccine recommendations so you may receive increased immunization requests.
- Updated vaccine recommendations for affected regions**

<b>Children 6 to &lt;12 months</b>	Can receive an early first dose of MMR.  Note: Children still need two more doses after 12 months of age.
<b>Children under 4 years old (who have had one dose)</b>	Can get an early second dose of MMR (at least 4 weeks after the first dose).  Note: No further doses are required after this second dose. Will still require varicella at age 4.
<b>Adults born on or after 1970</b>	Should receive a second dose of MMR if they have only had one.

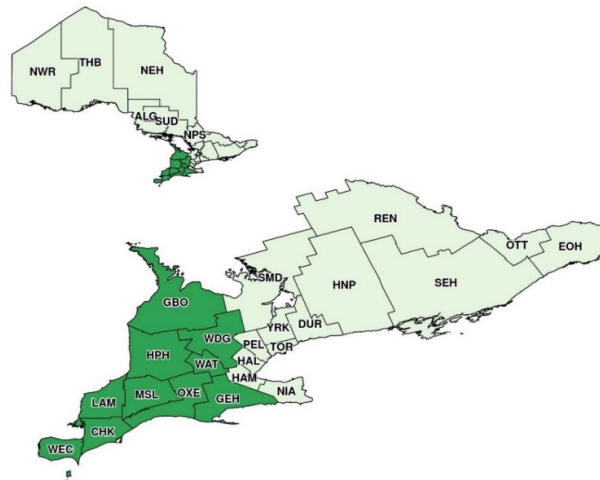
- Health care workers without documentation of proof of immunity, regardless of age of birth, will be excluded from work if exposed to a confirmed measles case. Ensure all staff in your office/clinic have documentation of either two doses of measles-containing vaccine OR laboratory evidence of immunity.
- Health care workers or military personnel: Two doses of the measles vaccine are recommended regardless of year of birth.**

## KEY MESSAGES FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

### Routine measles immunization

- All Ontarians are eligible for **one or two publicly funded doses** of measles-containing vaccine depending on their age and risk factors. Refer to the [Publicly Funded Immunization Schedule for Ontario](#) for details on routine, high-risk and catch-up schedules.
- MMRV vaccine is publicly funded as part of the routine immunization schedule for individuals 4 to 6 years of age and for catch-up immunizations for individuals 7 to 12 years of age. While MMRV can be used for outbreak, case and contact management purposes, due to the limited provincial supply of MMRV vaccine, the Ministry of Health is asking that MMRV be used primarily for routine or catch-up immunizations.
- Ensure children who may have missed dose(s) of measles-containing vaccine during the pandemic years are brought up to date as soon as possible.
- If immunization records are unavailable, immunization with measles-containing vaccine is preferred over serology. Refer to [PHO Measles-Serology](#) for details. Serology is not recommended before or after receiving MMR. If serology is inadvertently done, and the patient does not demonstrate immunity but has the required number of doses, re-immunization is not necessary.
- Travellers to destinations outside of Canada should ensure they are adequately immunized against measles prior to travel. Refer to [Canadian Immunization Guide](#) for recommendations.

### Map of Ontario: Public Health Units that have Implemented the Measles Outbreak Immunization Strategy ([PHO](#))



### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Routine and Outbreak-related Measles Immunization Schedules, Public Health Ontario](#), May 12 2024
- [Publicly Funded Immunization Schedules for Ontario June 2022, Ontario](#)
- [Measles vaccine: Canadian Immunization Guide](#), April 2025
- [Testing indications for measles, Public Health Ontario](#)
- [Measles, Ontario College of Family Physicians](#), March 7, 2025
- [Measles: Information for Health Care Providers, Public Health Ontario, 2nd Edition, September 2024](#)

Please report all suspected/confirmed cases of [Diseases of Public Health Significance](#) (only report COVID-19 cases occurring in high-risk settings) to Public Health immediately by calling 311, 905-825-6000 or toll free at 1-866-442-5866.

PLEASE PROVIDE A COPY TO ALL PHYSICIANS IN YOUR OFFICE AND/OR POST IN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS AND PHYSICIAN LOUNGES. IF YOU HAVE ANY ISSUES WITH THIS ATTACHMENT, PLEASE EMAIL [DOCTORS@HALTON.CA](mailto:DOCTORS@HALTON.CA).