

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 1, 2025

RE: Measles cases confirmed in Halton – Measles exposure sites, information and updates

QUICK FACTS

- Two confirmed measles cases have been reported to Halton Region Public Health. These are unrelated to the ongoing outbreak in Ontario.
- Significant public exposure sites include:
 - April 26 at the Halton Family Health Centre on Walkers Line in Burlington (9 am-12:30 pm) and
 - April 27 at the Halton Medix Clinic in Milton (9:30 am-1 pm).
- There have been 1,018 cases of measles to date in 2025, involving multiple Public Health Units across Ontario.
- 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.
- Immediately report all suspect or confirmed cases of measles infection to Halton Region Public Health by calling 311 or 905-825-6000. **Do not wait for laboratory confirmation.**
- Consider measles in the differential diagnoses, particularly in returning travelers with compatible symptoms including fever, cough, coryza or conjunctivitis and generalized maculopapular rash.
- Refer to the [Measles: Post-Exposure Prophylaxis for Contacts](#) guidance for individuals who have been exposed to measles and are not expected to have measles immunity.

KEY MESSAGES FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

- **If you suspect measles infection in a patient:**
 1. Schedule and assess the patient at the end of day in a single room with the door closed if an airborne infection isolation room is not available to promptly isolate the patient.
 2. Provide the patient with a medical mask if able to tolerate use.
 3. After patient assessment, do not use the exam room until at least two hours have elapsed.
 4. Only health care workers with presumptive immunity to measles should provide care to patients with suspect/confirmed measles.
 5. All health care workers should wear a fit-tested, seal-checked N95 respirator when entering the room and/or providing care for a patient with suspect/confirmed measles. Refer [to PHO's Interim IPAC Recommendations](#) for details. N95 masks are available for healthcare providers and can be ordered from the [PPE Supply Portal](#).
 6. Do not wait for lab confirmation. Immediately report any suspected or confirmed measles cases to Halton Region Public Health by calling **311 or 905-825- 6000**. Call Halton Region Public Health to facilitate the transport of specimens to the Public Health Ontario (PHO) laboratory in Toronto for timely testing.
 7. Advise the patient to self-isolate.
 8. Note: If you are referring a patient for further assessment or diagnostic testing, the receiving facility must be notified ahead of the patient's arrival to allow IPAC measures to be implemented.

- **Diagnostic testing**

- PCR specimens are essential for diagnostic testing. If feasible, collect ALL of the following:
 - Nasopharyngeal swab (within 7 days of rash onset) **AND**
 - Throat swab (within 7 days of rash onset) **AND**
 - Urine (within 14 days of rash onset)
- For suspect cases with a high index of suspicion, it may be warranted to test beyond the time periods noted above. Refer to [PHO Measles-Diagnostic-PCR](#) for further guidance.
- Serology testing (within 7 days of rash onset) alone is unreliable for diagnosis. Refer to [PHO Measles-Serology](#) for details.
- Specimens must be packaged separately from routine specimens and clearly marked “Suspect case of measles” and STAT on each [laboratory requisition](#) for PCR or diagnostic serology on the outside of the package. Complete all fields of the laboratory requisition form. Refer to [PHO Measles-Diagnostic-PCR](#) for information required for testing.
- All requisitions for testing should have checked off the “diagnosis” box and contain the following information: patient symptoms and onset date, exposure, travel and vaccination history.
- Ensure your office has testing specimen containers/supplies available. Review expiry dates of supplies. Swabs are currently being distributed with vaccine orders
- To order additional specimen collection supplies, use [PHO’s Requisition for Specimen Containers and Supplies](#) . See [PHO Kit and Test Ordering Instructions](#) for more information.

- **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.
- **Health care workers or military personnel: Two doses of the measles vaccine are recommended regardless of year of birth.**
- 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.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Testing indications for measles, Public Health Ontario](#)
- [Measles: Post-Exposure Prophylaxis for Contacts, Public Health Ontario](#), March 2025
- [Publicly Funded Immunization Schedules for Ontario June 2022, Ontario](#)
- [Measles vaccine: Canadian Immunization Guide](#), April 2025
- [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.