

Schools and Child Care: Measles Frequently Asked Questions



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Measles Frequently Asked Questions

Individuals who are fully immunized against measles will NOT be excluded from school or child care.

Educators, support staff, and students who do not have two doses of measles-containing vaccine or do not have proof of immunity may be excluded from attending school or child care. Those born before 1970 are generally considered immune.

The entire school or child care centre will be considered affected by a single case of measles.

Contacting Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health:

To report a measles case, call **1-800-265-7293 ext. 4752**.

For general measles inquiries or to refer parents, call **1-800-265-7293 ext. 7006**.

Vaccination

What is the recommended vaccination schedule for measles?

In Ontario, children are usually given the first MMR vaccine at 12 months of age and the second between four and six years of age. It is generally assumed that adults born before 1970 were infected as children and have acquired natural immunity to measles.

Are vaccinations mandatory for children attending school or child care centers?

All children attending either school or licensed child care centres in Ontario are required to be vaccinated (according to their age), or they must have completed a valid exemption.

A child only has one MMR – when do they receive the second one?

In Ontario, it is recommended that children receive two doses of the measles-containing vaccine. The first dose is given after the child's first birthday, and the second dose is given between ages 4 to 6 years. If a child has already had one dose of the MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) vaccine, they can receive the second dose as long as it's been at least 4 weeks (28 days) since the first dose.

What about staff vaccinations?

All staff, including volunteers and students, are recommended to have up-to-date vaccinations, including two doses of measles-containing vaccine if born in or after 1970. Staff born before 1970 are generally considered to be immune to measles. If staff cannot find their vaccination records, they should contact their healthcare provider to request a copy. If the records cannot be located, it is safe to be re-vaccinated. In this case, staff should speak with their healthcare provider about receiving at least one dose of measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine.

How can I find my or my child's vaccination records?

There are a few ways to locate vaccination records:

- Look for your yellow vaccination record (also known as the immunization card).
- Contact your healthcare provider, they may have a copy on file.
- Check with the public health unit where you or your child attended school. If you live in Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph, you can check your records [here](#).

How do I know if a child is immune to measles?

Check their vaccination record to see if they have received two doses of a measles-containing vaccine. The first dose should be given after their first birthday, and the second dose at least 4 weeks later. In Ontario, this vaccine is usually given at 1 year old and again between 4 to 6 years old. On their yellow immunization card, it will be listed as "MMR" or "MMRV".

Where can individuals get vaccinated?

The MMR vaccine is publicly funded in Ontario. Contact your healthcare provider or Wellington Dufferin Guelph Public Health at **1-800-265-7293 ext 7006** to make a vaccination appointment.

What about pregnant individuals?

Pregnant individuals are not at higher risk if they are fully vaccinated. They should check their

vaccination record to confirm they have received two doses of a measles-containing vaccine. However, pregnant individuals should not get the measles vaccine during pregnancy.

What about children or staff with weakened immune systems?

Individuals with weakened immune systems are at higher risk for serious complications from measles. They should consult their healthcare provider for advice on whether they are able to receive the measles vaccine.

Prevention and Control

How can measles be prevented?

Vaccination is the best protection against measles. Vaccination is highly effective at preventing measles - one dose is 95% effective, and two doses is 99% effective.

Can adults get measles?

Yes, adults can get measles if they are not vaccinated or haven't had the disease before. It is important for adults to ensure they are up to date with their measles vaccinations.

What should individuals do if they've been exposed to someone with measles or develop symptoms?

If you have been exposed to someone with measles or develop symptoms, confirm your immunization status and contact Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health as soon as possible to discuss next steps. Post-exposure options, such as the MMR vaccine, may help reduce the risk of getting measles or experiencing severe illness.

How long is someone with measles contagious?

A person with measles can spread the virus to others 4 days before the rash appears and up to 4 days after the rash starts. Children should stay home during this time to prevent spreading the virus.

What do I do if a child develops any measles-like symptoms at daycare?

Call WDG Public Health immediately for guidance.

Can the child come to daycare if someone in the household is quarantining due to measles exposure?

Children may attend daycare provided the household contact remains symptom free. Children who have had 2 doses of measles containing vaccine do not need to be excluded and may continue attending daycare.

What are the recommendations for cleaning and disinfection in a classroom with a case of measles?

The disinfection products used in schools and child care settings on a daily basis are suitable for disinfecting surfaces that may have come into contact with the virus. It is important to maintain good hand hygiene and continue with the daily cleaning and disinfection of surfaces that are frequently touched by hands (e.g., light switches, door handles, shared surfaces).

Reporting

Does measles need to be reported to Public Health?

Yes. Measles is a disease of public health significance, requiring mandatory and timely reporting to Public Health under the [Health Protection and Promotion Act R.S.O. 1990, c.H.7.](#)

How do we report a measles case to WDGPH?

To report a measles case, **call Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health at 1-800-265-7293 ext. 4752.**

For general questions about measles, or if you're referring parents to Public Health for general information, please contact **1-800-265-7293 ext. 7006.**

What should we do if a parent reports their child has symptoms consistent with measles or has potentially been exposed?

If a parent reports that their child has symptoms of measles or may have been exposed, advise them to contact Public Health right away. The child should stay home and avoid contact with others until they receive guidance from Public Health and are cleared to return to regular activities.

What should we do if a parent notifies us that their child has tested positive for measles?

Immediately report the confirmed case to Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health and follow all guidance provided. The child may need to be excluded from the facility, depending on their

vaccination status, and should remain excluded as directed by public health. Work with Public Health to identify anyone who may have been exposed and may need to be excluded.

What information will Public Health need when we report a possible case or exposure?

When reporting a possible case or exposure to Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health, please provide the following information:

- The child's name and date of birth
- The parent/guardian's name and contact information
- The child's home address
- The date the symptoms began
- The last date the child attended school or child care
- Whether the child has been assessed by a healthcare provider (if known)

Exclusion

Can a child or staff member with measles attend school or work?

Regardless of vaccination status, a person sick with measles should stay home from school, work, daycare or any other activities until at least the fifth day after the rash appears.

Do unvaccinated children or staff need to be excluded if there is a case of measles identified at our facility?

Yes, children and staff who are not fully vaccinated against measles are at a higher risk during a measles outbreak and may need to be excluded from the facility to protect their health and prevent further spread. Public Health will provide guidance on the duration of exclusion.

Proactive Measures for Schools

What can our facility do to prepare for a possible measles case?

- Encourage staff to confirm their vaccination status and ensure they are aware of whether they are up to date with their measles immunizations.
- Ensure you have current lists of all students, staff (including auxiliary staff such as volunteers and custodians), and bus lists.

- Educate staff, volunteers and parents about measles symptoms, how it spreads and the importance of vaccination.
- Encourage frequent handwashing and regular cleaning and disinfection of high-touch surfaces to reduce the spread of infections.
- Establish clear procedures for handling suspected measles cases, including promptly notifying Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health.
- Ensure a communication plan is in place to keep parents, guardians and staff informed about potential measles cases in your facility.

Proactive Measures for Child Care Centres

What can our facility do to prepare for a possible measles case?

- Keep accurate records of vaccination status for all children and staff, making sure everyone is up to date with the Ontario Immunization Schedule. Also, be aware of any vaccine exemptions within your facility.
- Ensure you have current lists of all children and staff (including auxiliary staff such as volunteers and custodians).
- Educate staff, volunteers and parents about measles symptoms, how it spreads, and the importance of vaccination.
- Encourage frequent handwashing and regular cleaning and disinfection of high-touch surfaces to reduce the spread of infections.
- Establish clear procedures for handling suspected measles cases, including promptly notifying Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health.
- Ensure a communication plan is in place to keep parents, guardians and staff informed about potential measles cases in your facility.