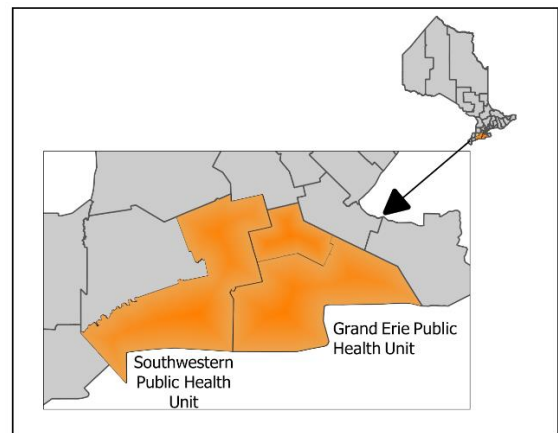


SUBJECT: Early Measles Vaccination for Patients in Higher-Risk Areas
Date: February 26, 2025
Pages: 2
To: Primary Care Providers
From: Dr. Matthew Tenenbaum, Associate Medical Officer of Health

Measles is currently circulating in parts of Ontario. Individuals living, working or travelling in these areas are eligible to receive earlier doses of measles-containing vaccines.

Measles is a **highly contagious respiratory virus** that has been eliminated in Canada but remains endemic in many countries. Travel-related cases still occur in Ontario each year.

There is currently a **measles outbreak**, with 99 known cases across four health units (as of February 12, 2025).¹ The majority of cases have been reported in Southwestern Public Health (**Oxford & Elgin counties**) and Grand Erie Public Health (**Brant, Haldimand, and Norfolk counties**).



Anyone living, working or travelling in these areas is at higher risk of measles exposure and is eligible to receive measles-containing vaccine earlier than the routine schedule:

1. Children 6 to <12 months of age can receive an **early first dose** of MMR. This is a long-standing off-label vaccine recommendation from NACI for children travelling to outbreak-affected areas.² In this scenario, two additional doses of measles-containing vaccine are still required after 12 months of age.
2. Children under 4 years can receive an **early second dose** of MMR (or MMRV if indicated) if at least four weeks have passed since the first dose. This dose does not need to be repeated at age 4.

Please note that these vaccine doses are publicly-funded and would apply to any scenarios where a child is visiting an area where measles is a concern.³

Adults born in 1970 or later with one dose of measles-containing vaccine can receive a second dose if they are visiting an area where measles is a concern, or if otherwise indicated by clinical judgement.

Additional Information:

- The MMR/MMRV vaccines can be administered **concurrently** with other live vaccines or after a minimum **4-week interval** following other live vaccines.
- If the **immunization history is unknown**, offer measles-containing vaccine rather than relying on serology. Additional doses are safe for individuals who are already immune.

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For clinical information, diagnosis, testing and reporting of suspected or confirmed measles cases, please refer to our [November 8, 2024. Measles Exposure Physician Advisory](#)

References:

1. Public Health Ontario. Measles in Ontario. February 13, 2025. Available at: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/Documents/M/24/measles-ontario-epi-summary.pdf>
2. Canadian Immunization Guide. Measles Vaccine Chapter. February 2025. Available at: [Measles vaccines: Canadian immunization guide - Canada.ca](#)
3. Publicly Funded Immunization Schedule for Ontario. June 2022. Available at <https://www.ontario.ca/files/2024-01/moh-publicly-funded-immunization-schedule-en-2024-01-23.pdf>

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