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**SUBJECT:** Measles Exposures for WDG residents  
**Date:** November 8, 2024  
**Pages:** 2  
**To:** Groves Memorial Hospital, Louise Marshall Hospital, Palmerston Hospital, Family Health Teams, Midwives  
**From:** Dr. Nicola Mercer, Medical Officer of Health

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**Measles is currently circulating in Ontario:**

- **Consider measles in the differential diagnosis for individuals presenting with compatible clinical signs and symptoms.**
- **Multiple specimens for diagnostic testing of measles are strongly preferred. Collect NP/throat swabs and urine for PCR AND serology.**
- **Measles is highly infectious. Implement IPAC measures immediately to prevent the spread.**

## Background

There are 6 probable cases of measles being investigated in Ontario as a result of a measles outbreak which was declared in New Brunswick at the end of October. There are potential exposures in WDG and neighbouring regions. Currently, there are no confirmed cases in our region but that could change. Clinicians should have high degree of suspicion in individuals that are presenting with compatible signs and symptoms – especially in individuals that are unvaccinated or partially vaccinated and/or who have recently travelled to New Brunswick.

## Clinical Information and Signs and Symptoms of Measles

The initial onset of symptoms of measles usually occurs 7-21 days after exposure to a case of measles. Symptoms include fever, cough, runny nose, and conjunctivitis. Then 3-7 days after initial onset of symptoms a red maculopapular rash appears on face and progresses down the body.

When assessing a patient for measles consider their vaccination status, recent travel history and potential exposures to measles. Implement airborne infection and prevention control measures to decrease any potential spread of infection, especially to infants and children.

## Diagnosis of Measles

The collection of **multiple specimens** is the standard for measles diagnostic testing. In acute or primary care settings please collect all three specimens:

- Serology (acute - within 7 days of rash onset; convalescent minimum 7-10 days after the acute sample)  
**AND**
- Nasopharyngeal or throat swab PCR (within 7 days of rash onset)  
**AND**
- Urine PCR (within 14 days of rash onset)

Refer to [Public Health Ontario's \(PHO\) Test information Index](#) for testing guidelines.

**WDG Public Health Physicians Advisory  
Measles Exposures for WDG Residents  
November 8, 2024  
Page 2 of 2**

**Reporting**

Measles is a reportable disease. If you suspect a case of measles, please report to Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health immediately by calling **519-822-2715 ext. 4752**. After hours, weekends and holidays please call **1-877-884-8653**.

**For more information, please contact:**

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