

## **UPDATE**

**SUBJECT:** Measles exposures in our region

Date: April 22, 2025

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To: Physicians, Primary Care Offices

From: Dr. Nicola Mercer Medical Officer of Health & CEO

Measles continues to spread across Ontario. Measles cases are now occurring **outside** of previously-identified high-risk areas **and** is now circulating within the general population. Beginning today, more than 100 students in Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph will be excluded from school based on the following exposures:

- 1. April 15 Hockey practice in Erin, Ontario
- 2. April 16 Basketball tournament at Erin Public School
- 3. April 14, 15, 16 Brisbane Public School

This is in addition to a number of private/family exposures.

Students and families were contacted on April 21. Affected students will be excluded from school for 21 days (until May 7, 2025).

For children with only one dose of a measles vaccine: These students are excluded for 21 days. If they receive a second dose of measles-containing vaccine AND are asymptomatic, they may return to school and monitor for symptoms for 21 days.

For children with zero doses of a measles vaccine: They are excluded from school for 21 days (until May 7, 2025). These children should still receive a first dose of the measles vaccine.

You may see an increase in interest from families in your practice who have children eligible for the MMR/MMRV vaccine booking appointments to receive the vaccine, or for their vaccine history/records.

WDG Public Health will be offering walk-in measles vaccinations for children and families excluded from school, beginning today (April 22) at all three of our offices (Guelph, Fergus, Orangeville).

Measles testing guidance remains unchanged from the March 3, 2025 Physicians Advisory:

- Consider measles in the differential diagnosis for individuals presenting with compatible clinical signs and symptoms.
- Diagnostic specimens include NP swab, throat swab and urine for PCR. Multiple specimens are strongly preferred.
- In the community, serology is not the preferred specimen as it can delay or impede diagnosis, as well as expose vulnerable people in the lab setting.
- In hospital settings, please draw serology in addition to PCR swabs. This can offer additional information to confirm the diagnosis.

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• Utilize appropriate IPAC practices when assessing individuals with suspected or confirmed measles. See these individuals at the end of the day.

Please ensure that your staff and health care workers have measles immunity. Thank you for all your efforts to protect our children and community from measles.

## For more information, please contact WDG Public Health:

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