



Durham Region Health Department FAX about...

For Health Care Professionals



Measles Preparedness

On February 8 2023, The Pan-American Health Organization [issued a statement](#) regarding the increasing risk of measles in the Americas and globally. Measles coverage for both 1st and 2nd doses across the Americas and elsewhere globally has dropped, including in Canada. With reduced border measures and increased travel anticipated over March break, Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health strongly recommends increased measles preparedness and actions from healthcare workers.

Actions requested

1. Consider measles in your differential diagnoses, particularly in returning travellers with respiratory symptoms.
The signs and symptoms of measles include:
 - Fever 38.3 degrees Celsius or higher (oral)
 - Cough, runny nose (coryza) or red eyes (conjunctivitis)
 - Generalized maculopapular rash for at least three days
2. Report any suspected measles cases **promptly to Durham Region Health Department**:
 - Phone: 905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729 ext. 2996
 - Confidential Fax: 905-666-6215
 - After Hours Phone: 905-576-9991 or 1-800-372-1104
 - Access the Notification Form for Diseases of Public Health Significance at www.durham.ca/hcp under Forms, Reporting.
 - Place any suspected measles cases under airborne precautions and test for measles.
 - Access test information at [Public Health Ontario Laboratory Test Information Sheet for Measles](#).
3. **Ensure ALL healthcare staff are up to date with either two doses of documented measles vaccination OR documented laboratory evidence of immunity.** This includes individuals born prior to 1970, as per the [OHA/OMA Measles Communicable Diseases Protocol](#).
4. Support your patients in remaining up to date with all routine vaccinations (including measles), especially in advance of any upcoming travel.
 - Order the MMR vaccine through regular monthly vaccine orders; order forms are available on www.durham.ca/hcp under Forms, Order.
 - Inform parents to report their children's vaccines. Immunization information can be electronically submitted through Immunization Connect Ontario Tool (ICON) at durham.ca/immunize.
 - Currently, the Health Department offers catch-up clinics for students in grades 9-12 for all vaccines, including measles. Parents/Guardians and students can book an appointment online at [Child Immunization and School Clinics - Region of Durham](#).

February 15, 2023

905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729 | durham.ca/health

If you require this information in an accessible format, contact 1-800-841-2729.

