



Measles Preparedness

Increased measles activity is being reported globally due to travel and low vaccination rates, including recent reports of travel-associated cases in Ontario.

Action Requested

Consider measles in your differential diagnoses, particularly in returning travellers with respiratory symptoms. Vaccinate patients who are not up-to-date and planning to travel. **Due to increased risks during travel to areas of concern, Ontario residents 6 months and older are eligible for publicly funded measles vaccine.**

Clinical Presentation

The key 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

Promptly isolate any patient with suspect or confirmed measles in a single room with negative air flow (airborne isolation room) if available. If not, the patient should wear a surgical mask and be placed in a single room with the door closed. Isolate the exam room for 2 hours after the patient has left.

Testing

If your patient presents with the above symptoms, order the following tests (or search for "Measles" on the main PHOL website):

1. Measles PCR -nasopharyngeal (NP) /throat swab and urine specimen - NP swab (collected in virus culture media) AND urine (50 mls), for measles PCR
 - NP swab and/or a throat swab should be collected within 7 days after rash onset
 - Urine should be collected within 14 days of rash onset
2. Measles Serology – blood test (IgG and IgM)
 - Acute: Collect the acute sample within 7 days after rash onset
 - Convalescent: Collect the convalescent sample minimum 7-10 days after the acute; preferably 10 to 30 days after acute
 - Mark "suspect measles" on the lab requisitions

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Vaccination

Vaccinate patients who are not up-to-date with measles vaccine especially if they are planning to travel, including infants 6 months of age or older. Ensure the second booster was received by 4 to 6 years of age.

Ensure all healthcare staff are up to date with either two doses of documented measles vaccination OR documented laboratory evidence of immunity.

Order the MMR vaccine through regular monthly vaccine orders (order forms are available on www.durham.ca/hcp under Forms, Order).

Publicly Funded Immunization Criteria for Measles

Routine Criteria:

- ≥1 year of age

High-Risk Criteria:

- 6 to 11 months of age and travelling to areas where measles is of concern (2 additional doses are required at ≥1 year of age)
- Adults 26 years of age and over who have only received one dose of MMR are eligible to receive a second dose:
 - If they are health care workers
 - If they are post-secondary students
 - If they are travelling to areas where measles is of concern
 - Based on health care provider clinical judgement

Reporting

Measles is an immediately reportable disease in Ontario. Please continue to report any cases of Measles promptly to Durham Region Health Department:

- Phone: 905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729 ext. 2996
- After Hours Phone: 905-576-9991 or 1-800-372-1104
- Confidential Fax: 905-666-6215
- Access the Notification Form for Diseases of Public Health Significance at www.durham.ca/hcp (under Forms, Reporting) and fax the completed form

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