

March 11, 2025

Measles Update for Healthcare Providers

Huron and Perth counties continue to experience cases of measles. All lab-confirmed and probable cases of measles in Huron Perth so far have been in unvaccinated individuals, so efforts to ensure your patients are up-to-date on measles immunization is key. Additionally, in accordance with the Canadian Immunization Guide (and funded in Ontario's Publicly Funded Immunization Schedule), all healthcare workers are strongly recommended to have two valid doses of measles-containing vaccine or bloodwork suggestive of immunity (measles IgG reactive) regardless of year of birth.

As indicated in the HPPH March 6, 2025 Public Health Alert, measles vaccine eligibility is now expanded for those who live, work, play, travel to, or worship within the Huron Perth Public Health region.

Current measles vaccine eligibility:

Infants

- Infants aged six months to 11 months are now eligible to receive a first dose of measles-containing vaccine for earlier protection against measles. These infants will still require two doses of measles-containing vaccine after one year of age.

Children

- Children are now eligible for their second dose of measles-containing vaccine before the age of four years in consultation with their healthcare provider.

Adults

- Adults born **before 1970** are generally considered protected against measles. Adults born before 1970 who work in healthcare are advised to have a second dose or proof of immunity (where available).
- Adults born **in 1970 or after** are advised to have two doses of measles-containing vaccine.

Please prioritize these groups for MMR/MMRV immunizations

Where capacity to immunize is an issue, you may consider actively reviewing patient records and prioritizing the following groups for MMR/MMRV vaccinations:

- Infants and young children (age six months to two years) who have not received a first dose of MMR vaccine.
- Children ages three to seven years who have not received a first dose of MMR vaccine.
- Children who are one year of age to seven years of age who do not have a second dose of measles-containing vaccine dose, ensuring a minimum interval of 28 days.
- Those who were born after 1970 and have not received any measles-containing immunizations.
- Those aged seven and older who have not had a second dose of measles-containing vaccine.

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HPPH is currently focusing immunization efforts on the most vulnerable in our community, which as indicated above includes infants and children aged seven years and under.

MMR/MMRV Vaccine Supply in Huron Perth

Currently MMR vaccine supply is stable and HPPH is expecting an MMRV shipment next week. Please continue making vaccine orders as per your normal process.

IPAC guidance

All healthcare workers, regardless of presumptive immunity to measles, should wear a fit-tested, seal-checked N95 respirator when providing care to a patient with suspect or confirmed measles. Contact and droplet precautions may also be indicated as per your Point of Care Risk Assessment.

Resources:

[Interim IPAC Recommendations and Use of PPE for Care of Individuals with Suspect or Confirmed Measles](#) |Public Health Ontario (March 2024)

[Measles Information for Health Care Providers](#) |Public Health Ontario (September 2024).

[Measles IPAC Checklist for Clinics and Specimen Collection Centres](#) |Public Health Ontario (September 2024).

Public Health Ontario weekly surveillance

Public Health Ontario (PHO) has released the [first surveillance report of 2025 on measles](#). The report is updated monthly and is accessible through the [PHO measles information webpage](#).

Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Varicella fact sheet and poster

The HPPH Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Varicella (MMRV) fact sheet and poster that was provided to you last year is still current. When testing for these diseases, ensure all indicated lab tests are completed to confirm diagnosis. The fact sheet is attached. If you require a printed copy, please contact HPPH infectious disease team IDteam@hpph.ca or 1-888-221-2133 ext. 3284.