

**To:** Physicians and Family Health Teams, Midwives, Pediatricians, Hospital Infection Control Teams, Emergency Departments and Paramedics

**From:** Huron Perth Public Health Infectious Diseases and Immunization Team

**Date:** March 6, 2025

**Re:** Change in measles vaccine eligibility; Huron and Perth areas of concern for measles

Huron Perth Public Health currently has six of lab confirmed cases of measles in Huron and Perth, with more cases pending lab results. At this time, Huron and Perth Counties are now considered areas of concern for measles.

In response to Huron Perth Public Health being an area of concern for measles, and in consultation with the Ministry of Health, measles vaccine eligibility is now expanded to those who live, work, play, travel to, or worship within the Huron Perth Public Health region.

**Specifically:**

- Expanded eligibility for infants 6 months to 11 months to receive a first dose of measles-containing vaccine for earlier protection against measles. Two subsequent doses after first birthday are still required at the recommended intervals for long-lasting immunity.
- The second dose of measles-containing vaccine (MMR/MMRV) for children can be given **before** the age of 4 in consultation with you as the health care provider. Current recommendation: ***at*** 4 years of age (not delaying the 4-6 years booster beyond 4 years of age).
- **These recommendations are especially important if a child is attending school or daycare.**

**Other guidance:**

- Two doses of measles-containing vaccine are advised for adults born in and after 1970.
- Specific populations of adults born before 1970 (e.g., people who work in health care, members of the military) are advised to consult with their health care provider for measles-containing vaccine doses.
- This guidance is also applicable to those who live, work, play, travel to, or worship within the Grand Erie Public Health and Southwestern Public Health regions, which are also currently areas of concern for measles.

## Clinical support

### Expanded eligibility for infants 6 months to 11 months:

- To create additional protection for this highly vulnerable age group, an additional publicly funded dose of measles containing vaccine can now be provided to infants 6 months to 11 months of age.
- The use of MMR vaccine down to 6 months of age for infants at risk of measles exposure (in the setting of an outbreak-affected area or travel) is a long-standing off-label vaccine recommendation from the National Advisory Council on Immunization (NACI).
- Priorix® or MMRII® may be used interchangeably and are both safe to provide for 6 months and older.
- Two additional doses of measles containing vaccine must be administered after 12 months of age (and at least 28 days after the previous dose) to ensure long-lasting immunity to measles.

### Accelerated schedule for second doses:

- To increase immunization coverage among children and prevent complications from measles infection that are more common under the age of 5 years, the second dose of the measles-containing vaccine scheduled at 4-6 years of age should instead be provided as early as 28 days from the previous dose.
- At an interval of 28 days or beyond, the second dose is considered valid under the Immunization of Schools Pupils Act and effective to provide long-lasting immunity. An additional dose of measles-containing vaccine at 4-6 years would not be required.

### Second dose for adults born in and after 1970:

- To further mitigate the risk of ongoing transmission in the community, adults born in and after 1970 with only one dose of measles-containing vaccine should be offered a second dose.
- Individuals born prior to 1970 in Canada are likely to have immunity as the result of being exposed to measles through natural infection.

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## Actions to take

- Proactively prioritize measles-containing immunizations for all eligible individuals in your roster.
- Ask families to report this vaccination to Huron Perth Public Health ([www.hp-ph.ca/icon](http://www.hp-ph.ca/icon)).

## **Measles vaccine clinics for non-rostered Huron Perth residents**

Huron Perth Public Health will be holding measles vaccine clinics during the week of March break (March 10-15) to help families without a healthcare provider to get up to date with their measles immunizations. Refer to [www.hpph.ca/measles](http://www.hpph.ca/measles) for more information on clinic times and locations.

## **Contact HPPH Immunization Team**

Contact the immunization team with immunization related questions or to [request more MMR vaccine](#) doses. Email [immunization@hpph.ca](mailto:immunization@hpph.ca) or call 1-888-221-2133 ext. 3558.

## **Contact HPPH Infectious Disease Team**

Measles is a reportable disease. Please contact the infectious disease team to report any individual who is a suspected or confirmed case of measles. If you have questions on administering post-exposure prophylaxis, the infectious disease team is available to consult. [IDteam@hpph.ca](mailto:IDteam@hpph.ca) 1-888-221-2133 ext. 3254  
If after hours please use our after-hours answering service 1-800-431-2054.