



## Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care

### Public Health

300 Carlton Street

Winnipeg, Manitoba Canada R3B 3M9

February 4, 2025

#### **RE: Measles Cases Confirmed in Manitoba**

Public Health has confirmed five cases of measles in southern Manitoba, all connected to an ongoing outbreak in Ontario.

These cases involve five individuals living within the same household, all of whom were contacts of lab-confirmed cases while recently traveling in Ontario.

Manitoba has not identified a measles case since 2019. Public health investigation is ongoing.

A media bulletin is being issued today to notify people who were at the following locations of their possible exposure to measles virus:

- Reinland Mennonite Church (200 Redhawk Trail, Winkler) on January 26, 2025.
- Health Sciences Center, Winnipeg on January 31, 2025 – various locations.

For information about possible exposure sites, dates and times, please see:

<https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/diseases/measles.html>.

Measles is one of the most infectious viruses and spread via the airborne route and close contact with respiratory secretions.

- **Clinicians should consider measles in patients presenting with fever and rash (usually starts on the face and moves downwards) among those who have traveled or have had known contact with a measles case.**
- Other symptoms may include cough, coryza and conjunctivitis.
- **Clients with suspected measles should be isolated immediately and airborne precautions implemented.**
- Please see Routine Practices and Additional Precautions guidelines for more details <https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/docs/ipc/rpap.pdf>.
- Provide the client with a mask to wear at all times unless they are in an airborne infection isolation room.

For suspect measles cases, **preferred specimen is a nasopharyngeal swab for measles PCR**. Also submit serology for measles IgG and IgM, but this will be less sensitive and specific than PCR.

If clinical suspicion is high for measles, health care providers are required to **notify public health on the same day** by sending a clinical notification form found at [https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/protocol/mhsu\\_0013.pdf](https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/protocol/mhsu_0013.pdf) even before test results are back. The Medical Officer of Health on-call (204-788-8666) should be notified after-hours.

Please refer to the measles (rubeola) communicable disease protocol found at <https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/protocol/measles.pdf> for further information.

Immunization is the best way to protect against measles.

- Clinicians are encouraged to **check the immunization status of clients** to ensure they are protected.
- All children 12 months of age and older are eligible to receive 2 doses of MMR/MMRV vaccine.
- Infants 6 months to less than 12 months of age and traveling to a measles-endemic country are eligible for 1 dose, in addition to the routine 2 dose series.
- Vaccine eligibility can be found at <https://www.manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/vaccineeligibility.html>.
- Measles post-exposure prophylaxis recommendations are available in the measles public health protocol and the Canadian Immunization Guide (<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/healthy-living/canadian-immunization-guide-part-4-active-vaccines/page-12-measles-vaccine.html#pep>)

Clinicians are encouraged to raise awareness of the current increased risk of measles at any opportunity and promote vaccination.

Please share this information with all colleagues at your facility/clinic.

If you have any questions, please email [vaccines@gov.mb.ca](mailto:vaccines@gov.mb.ca).

Sincerely,



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