

Measles Update – April 4, 2025

As of April 3, 2025, there have been 661 measles cases [reported in Ontario](#) since the outbreak began. The outbreak continues to be predominantly among individuals who are unvaccinated or with unknown vaccination status. York Region has had two cases of measles since the start of 2025.

This update includes information for:

- **Clinic owners/managers and hospital staff:** Proof of measles immunity for health care staff
- **In-patient and occupational health hospital providers:** New Measles Post-Exposure Prophylaxis guidance
- **All diagnosing clinicians:** Specimens for measles testing

Attention: Proof of measles immunity for health care staff

All patient-facing staff working in a healthcare setting are advised to have documented proof of measles immunity (i.e., 2 doses of measles-containing vaccine OR serology) readily available, regardless of birth year. Applicable settings include: clinics, hospitals, dental offices, long-term care homes, and pharmacies.

If your clinic or facility is identified as a measles exposure site, staff will be required to provide this proof to public health. If a staff member is unable to provide documentation, they may be required to be excluded from work until documentation or serology can be obtained.

Attention: New Measles Post-Exposure Prophylaxis guidance

On March 21, 2025, Public Health Ontario (PHO) shared new guidance from the Ontario Immunization Advisory Committee (OIAC) regarding measles post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) for immunocompromised individuals. These are in alignment with the updated National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) guidance for immunocompromised or pregnant individuals.

- York Region Public Health (YRPH) will continue to manage PEP assessments for non-occupational and community contacts. The new OIAC and NACI guidance documents will be used as reference
- Hospitals within York Region will continue to be responsible for managing PEP assessments for occupational exposures (i.e. staff exposed to measles while at work) and for any exposed in-patients
 - **Hospital providers responsible for assessing eligibility for PEP are advised to refer to the new OIAC and NACI guidance documents**
 - YRPH will continue to be available for consultation as needed

The new recommendations can be found here:

OIAC guidance for immunocompromised individuals:

- [Recommendations: Measles Post-Exposure Prophylaxis for Individuals Who Are Immunocompromised Due to Disease or Therapy](#)
- [Summary of Recommendations: Measles Post-Exposure Prophylaxis for Individuals Who Are Immunocompromised Due to Disease or Therapy](#)

NACI guidance for immunocompromised or pregnant individuals:

- [Updated recommendations on measles post-exposure prophylaxis - Canada.ca](#)

Reminder: Specimens for measles testing

- To test for measles, collect all three of the following for PCR:
 - Nasopharyngeal (NP) swab, throat swab, urine sample
- Serology for measles IgM and IgG can also be collected within seven days (serology should NOT be the only test relied upon for diagnosing measles)
- Complete a Public Health Ontario (PHO) [General Test Requisition](#) and write “Measles Virus Diagnosis” in the Test(s) Requested section;
- For specimen collection instructions and [ordering containers](#), visit [PHO: Measles – Diagnostic – PCR](#); be sure to use the correct collection equipment (see Table 1)

Table 1. Measles diagnostic testing collection kits

NP Swab	Throat Swab	Urine Sample
	 Note: The medium should be pink	 Note: Minimum volume required = 10mL
PHO Order #390082	PHO Order # 390081	PHO Order # 300316

If you have a high degree of suspicion for a measles case, report it to YRPH immediately.

Measles is a reportable disease of public health significance under the [Health Protection and Promotion Act](#) (HPPA).

- Please call us at **1-877-464-9675 ext. 73588** (Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) or **905-953-6478** after hours (before 8:30 a.m. and after 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday or 24 hours per day on weekends/holidays)

Important: Please instruct your patient to isolate at home after leaving your clinical facility and that public health will contact them with further direction and support.

Additional Resources

- PHO: [Measles Information for Clinicians](#)
- PHO: [Measles Serological Testing Information](#)
- PHO: [Infection Prevention and Control for Clinical Office Practice](#)
- PHO: [Interim IPAC Recommendations and Use of PPE for Care of Individuals with Suspect or Confirmed Measles](#)
- [Measles Fact Sheet for Patients](#)