

Infectious Diseases Update for Health Care Providers- August 2025

Update: Measles Information for Health Care Providers

NEW: Viral Hemorrhagic Fever (VHF) Symptom and Exposure Risk Assessment

Update: Expanded Eligibility for Ontario's Pediatric Pneumococcal Vaccine Program

Update: AEFI Forms and Fact Sheet Update

Measles Update

As of August 6, 2025, there have been 2,360 measles cases related to the ongoing outbreak in southwestern [Ontario](#). Measles continues to spread primarily among unvaccinated individuals or those with unknown vaccination status. Since the start of 2025, York Region has had five cases of measles, one connected to the provincial outbreak.

Public Health Ontario recently updated the [Measles Information for Health Care Providers resource](#). Outlined below are the key revisions:

- The travel-related measles vaccination recommendations table has been removed. Table 1 now provides a summary of the routine and outbreak related measles immunization schedule. Anyone that is planning travel to an area of concern for measles, either domestically or internationally, should be made aware of the additional vaccine recommendations (page 3).
- A brief paragraph on measles immunization guidance for pregnant and breastfeeding individuals has been added (page 3).
- The addition of a paragraph on Serological Testing for Measles Immunity, including serology information for pregnant individuals (page 4).
- Updates were made to the Diagnosis of Measles section to include testing in the context of a measles outbreak (page 5).
- Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) Practices related to recommendations for health care worker personal protective equipment (PPE) were updated to align with changes made to the PIDAC Appendix N (page 7).

New VHF Symptom and Exposure Risk Assessment Checklist

In collaboration with the Ministry of Health, Public Health Ontario has created the [Viral Hemorrhagic Fever \(VHF\) Symptom and Exposure Risk Assessment Checklist](#). The checklist has been developed to support clinicians in their assessment of patients presenting with VHF compatible symptoms and relevant exposures. In the event of a suspected VHF cases, this tool outlines immediate next steps and provides guidance on when public health and the Ministry of Health need to be notified.

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Healthcare providers are asked to familiarize themselves with this resource and integrate it into their clinical assessment protocols. For additional information, please visit [Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers | Public Health Ontario](#)

Updates to Ontario's Pediatric Pneumococcal Vaccine Program

As of June 20, 2025, the Ministry of Health updated the eligibility criteria for the publicly funded **pediatric** pneumococcal vaccine program.

Children aged 6 weeks to 17 years who are at high risk* of invasive pneumococcal disease (IPD) and have previously completed their pneumococcal immunization series **without Pneu-C-20** are now **eligible to receive one dose of publicly funded Pneu-C-20**. This should be provided at least 8 weeks after the last dose of Pneu-C-13 (Prenar 13™), or at least 1 year after the last dose of Pneu-P-23 (Pneumovax® 23).

*For a list of medical and non-medical conditions that increases an individual's risk of IPD, refer to Page 4 in [Health Care Provider Fact Sheet: Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccines for Children Aged 6 Weeks to 17 Years](#).

For full details on the updated vaccine eligibility, including guidance on catch-up vaccinations for those with incomplete pneumococcal immunization series, see Figure 1 and Tables 2-4 of the Ministry of Health's [Health Care Provider Fact Sheet: Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccines for Children Aged 6 Weeks to 17 Years](#). This Fact Sheet also includes specific recommendations for hematopoietic stem cell transplant (HSCT) recipients.

Eligibility for the publicly funded **adult** pneumococcal vaccine program remains unchanged. For full details, see the Ministry of Health's [Health Care Provider Fact Sheet: Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccines for Adults Aged 18 Years and Older](#).

Additional Ministry of Health Resources

- [Memo from Dr. Kieran Moore](#), Chief Medical Officer of Health (June 20, 2025)
- [Vaccine Fact Sheet: Pneumococcal Vaccine Program for Individuals Aged 6 Weeks and Older](#) (Information for the public, June 2025)
- [Vaccine resources for professionals](#) webpage with information on publicly funded immunization schedules for Ontario

For information on pneumococcal vaccine ordering, contact our Vaccine Inventory Program at vaccineinventory@york.ca, call 1-877-464-9675 ext. 74033 or visit us at york.ca/vaccineinventory.

For information on pneumococcal immunizations and availability at community clinics, contact our Vaccine Preventable Diseases Program at vaccineinformationline@york.ca, call 1-877-464-9675 ext. 73452 or visit us at york.ca/health/immunizations

AEFI Forms and Fact Sheet Update

Public Health Ontario has updated the following vaccine safety resources:

- [Adverse Event Following Immunization \(AEFI\) Reporting Form](#)
- [AEFI Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers](#)

These changes have been made to align with the pending Ministry of Health's revised *Infectious Disease Protocol, Appendix 1: Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFIs)*. Notable updates include:

- Integration of select COVID-19 Adverse Events of Special Interest (AESIs) into general AEFI categories
- Revisions to adverse event types to align with the updated national reporting form from the Public Health Agency of Canada

Please note, as of July 21, 2025, the COVID-19 AESI Technical Brief is retired. It remains available upon request from communicable.diseasecontrol@oahpp.ca.