

Update on Provincial and Local Measles Outbreak

October 17, 2025

York Region Public Health (YRPH) has been informed that we will no longer be receiving physician email addresses from the CPSO. To **continue receiving critical and time-sensitive public health alerts**, please **opt-in to our listserv** through [this link](#) by **October 31st, 2025**.

Ontario's Ministry of Health has officially declared the measles outbreak in Ontario over, following a sustained period of enhanced surveillance and a return to baseline case levels. This marks a significant milestone and reflects the effectiveness of coordinated efforts across healthcare and public health sectors.

While the provincial outbreak has ended, **York Region Public Health continues to investigate and respond to the local measles outbreak in Thornhill (City of Vaughan)**. Four additional cases have recently been identified, bringing the total to **nine** confirmed cases linked to the outbreak. No new or recent public exposures have been reported.

Our current local outbreak serves as a reminder of how easily measles can spread following importation when there are gaps in population immunity. Prompt recognition, timely reporting and proactive immunization efforts remain essential to curbing our local measles outbreak as quickly as possible.

Clinical Recommendations for Ongoing Measles Surveillance and Prevention

To ensure continued protection and early detection, we ask all clinicians to:

- Remain alert for measles in patients, particularly those with travel history or known exposure
- Immediately report any suspected measles cases to YRPH for investigation. **Do not wait** for laboratory confirmation
- Review immunization status during patient visits and ensure MMR/MMRV vaccination is up to date. Remind parents/guardians to [report vaccines to YRPH](#)
- Consider recommending outbreak-related immunization recommendations to your patients who live, work, travel, worship or spend time in areas with active measles cases and where the risk of exposure in the community is higher:
 - Infants (6 to 11 months) may receive one dose of MMR vaccine (note: two additional doses are required after the age of 12 months)
 - Children who have received their first dose of MMR vaccine are encouraged to receive a second dose as soon as possible (minimum of 4 week interval)
 - Adults (born on or after 1970): a second dose of MMR vaccine is recommended

Immediately test and report suspected measles cases to YRPH

Follow the provincial guidelines on specimen collection and handling for any suspected measles cases. Please promptly perform **ALL** the diagnostic tests listed below. If the index of suspicion is high, testing can be done beyond recommended time periods:

- **Urine for PCR testing:** Within 14 days of rash onset
- **Nasopharyngeal swab or throat swab for PCR testing:** Within 7 days of rash onset
- **Acute serology (IgM and IgG):** Within 7 days of rash onset

To expedite the processing of specimens, please call YRPH at 905-830-4444 ext. 73588, Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., or after hours at 905-953-6478. YRPH will help arrange transportation of specimens to the Public Health Ontario Laboratory (PHOL) in Toronto.

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 YRPH will contact them with further direction and support

Additional Measles Resources

- **For Clinicians (from Public Health Ontario and Public Health Ontario Laboratory)**
 - [How to Recognize and Respond to Measles](#)
 - [Measles Information for Clinicians](#)
 - [Measles Serological Testing Information](#)
 - [Measles Diagnostic PCR Testing information](#)
 - [Requisition for Specimen Containers and Supplies](#)
 - [Infection Prevention and Control for Clinical Office Practice](#)
 - [Interim IPAC Recommendations and Use of PPE for Care of Individuals with Suspect or Confirmed Measles](#)
- **For Patients (from YRPH)**
 - [Measles Fact Sheet](#)
 - [Tested! Now What?](#)
 - [Measles: What is PEP?](#)

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