



Interior Health

MEDICAL HEALTH OFFICERS **ALERT**

Measles Update

February 19, 2025

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(24/7)

1-866-457-5648

There have been measles cases reported recently within the [Lower Mainland](#). Most recent case exposures occurred on February 11, 2025 at the Vancouver International Airport.

There are currently **no** confirmed cases of measles in Interior Health. Please be alert for the signs and symptoms of measles.

The number of confirmed measles cases is increasing in Canada (44 cases in 2025 and 146 cases in 2024) and around the world, largely driven by declining uptake of measles-containing vaccine. Vaccination is highly protective: One dose efficacy is 85-95% and two-dose efficacy approaches 100%.

Actions requested of all clinicians:

Remain vigilant for cases of measles and encourage patients to review their immunization status.

1. **Risk factors:** In the absence of a local outbreak, it is **extremely unlikely** that any patient has measles without **both** of the following **risk factors**:
 - Travel in the last 3 weeks **OR** contact with a case of measles **AND**
 - Under/unvaccinated **AND** born after 1969
2. **Signs and Symptoms:** The **signs and symptoms** of measles include rash (descending maculopapular) after prodrome of fever, cough, coryza and conjunctivitis.
3. **Client Screening and Infection Control:** Consider having office reception staff screen patients while booking their appointment so that those with fever and rash can be isolated upon arrival.
 - Please ask them to wear a facemask and place them in a private room as soon as possible to protect other patients in the office.
 - The room should not be used for two hours after the patient has left.
 - Suspect cases must stay isolated at home until four days after rash onset.
4. **Test:** Virus detection and serology is required:
 - Nasopharyngeal or throat viral COPAN red top UTM swab (measles virus isolation and PCR)
 - Urine sample (measles virus isolation and PCR testing)
 - Blood sample to test for measles specific IgM and IgG class antibodies.

If you suspect the patient is still in their period of infectivity, **please call ahead** to the lab or Emergency Department to ensure they can maintain isolation of the patient when coming in for testing.

Please call the Medical Health Officer immediately if you have a patient with risk factors for and symptoms of measles.

During business hours call 1-866-778-7736 or after hours and on weekends please call the Medical Health Officer on-call at 1-866-457-5648.

We recognize and acknowledge that we are collectively gathered on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the seven Interior Region First Nations. This region is also home to 15 Chartered Métis Communities. It is with humility that we continue to strengthen our relationships with First Nation, Métis, and Inuit peoples across the Interior.