

The Immunizer

A quarterly newsletter for community vaccine providers (CVP) in the Interior Health Region.

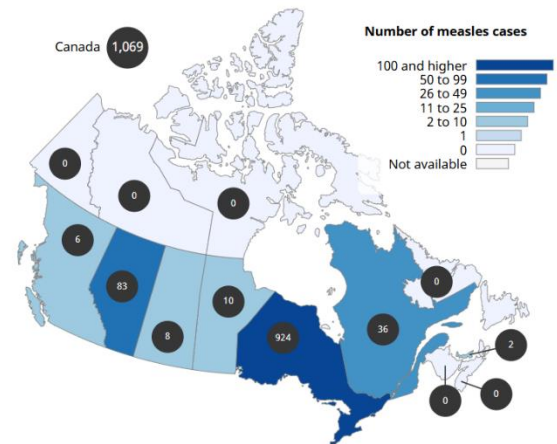
May 2025

Measles Vaccine

Due to increased measles activity we are encouraging [eligible](#) adults to receive MMR vaccine. Pharmacies may order MMR vaccine to meet an expected increase in demand. Use the [Publicly Funded Vaccine Order Form](#).

Public Health is proactively contacting parents/guardians of kindergarten to grade 2 school-age children to review measles immunization status and catch-up clinics are being offered. Other providers may see an increase in inquiries regarding measles vaccine.

Map image Figure 1. Geographical distribution of measles cases by province/territory, 2025. [Canada.ca](#)

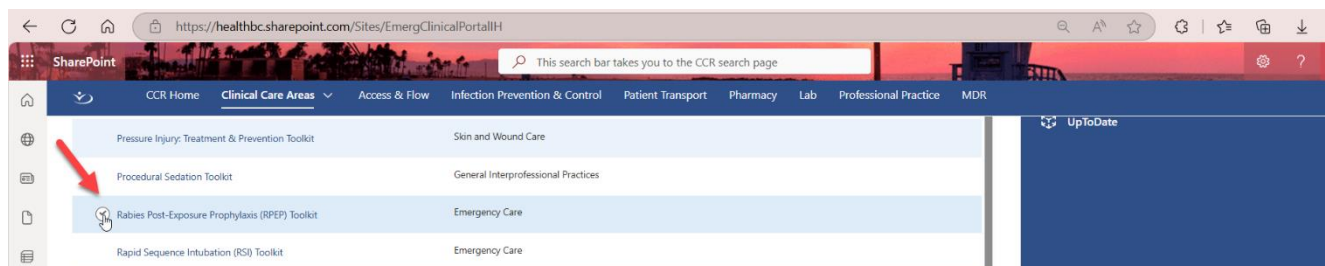


Rabies

It's the time of year when we start seeing an increase in injuries related to animal bites and scratches. The weather is warming up and people are venturing out into the great outdoors. Wildlife, including bats and pets are the usual suspects for these injuries which put the public at risk for rabies.

Emergency department staff are encouraged to refamiliarize themselves with the processes and resources developed to support and provide direction when patients may require Rabies Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (RPEP).

Find the [RPEP Toolkit](#) in the Clinical Care Resources, Emergency Care Toolkits section. This toolkit is the one-stop shop for all things related to rabies for the emergency department.



Pharmacists: If patients report an animal contact exposure to pharmacy and are looking for treatment, refer patients to call the on duty environmental health officer: 1-855-851-4184



Nailed it!

Tetanus doesn't have anything to do with rust, but rather is a serious infection caused by *Clostridium tetani* bacteria. These bacteria are found throughout the environment, dwelling in places such as soil, dust and feces. Tetanus bacteria can infect the body through open wounds, especially deep penetrating ones. It's the nature of the wound that is dangerous. Any object with bacteria, rusty or not that penetrates the skin, is fair game. While dirty wounds are most risky, even kitchen-knife injuries have led to tetanus infections.



Make sure you have tetanus vaccine on hand as we move into summer, using the [Publicly Funded Vaccine Order Form](#).

HPV

The human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine is a cancer-preventing vaccine. In BC, the HPV vaccine is offered to all students in grade 6 as part of the [routine school immunization program](#). We are anticipating new [publicly funded eligibility criteria](#) from BCCDC this month.

Pharmacies are encouraged to order HPV vaccine to provide to those who are eligible. Use the [Publicly Funded Vaccine Order Form](#) to get HPV vaccine or any other publicly funded vaccines as needed.



HealthLinkBC

On March 31, 2025, the ImmunizeBC website content moved over to [HealthLinkBC](#). Here you will find resources to support your clients on a variety of immunization topics including vaccine healthfiles, immunization schedules, after care, vaccine-preventable diseases and more.

Can't find what you're looking for? Here are some additional immunization resources you may find helpful.

- [Immunization & Vaccines | Interior Health](#)
- [Immunization Manual](#)
- [Immunization Clinical Resources](#)
- [Home | ImmunizeCanada](#)

Questions?

If you have questions, we are happy to help!

- Clinical Immunization Questions: ImmunizationProgram@interiorhealth.ca
- Biological Vaccine Product Questions: Vaccines@interiorhealth.ca