



**Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care
Public Health**

300 Carlton Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba Canada R3B 3M9

March 20, 2025

Re: Update on Measles in Manitoba

Dear Parents/Guardians and Caregivers:

The number of measles cases is rising in Manitoba, in Canada and around the world. As of March 6, 2025, Canada has recorded 227 measles cases with six cases in Manitoba. Many of the cases are children who were unvaccinated. Many of these cases also needed hospitalization.

With the current measles situation, it is important to know the following about measles:

1. The early symptoms of measles include fever, runny nose, cough and red eyes. The most recognized symptom of measles is a red, blotchy rash, which often begins on the face and spreads down the body. Measles is a serious illness, especially for young children, pregnant people and those with a weakened immune system. It can result in lung and brain infections and other conditions that lead to serious complications or death.

We encourage parents/guardians and caregivers to watch for measles symptoms, especially after travelling. If you suspect you or your child may have measles, please call your health care provider or call Health Links – Info Santé (toll-free in Manitoba at 204-788-8200 in Winnipeg or 1-888-315-9257 outside Winnipeg) and get their advice on next steps.

2. Measles is very contagious. Immunization is the best way to protect your child(ren) against it. Keeping your child(ren) up to date with their measles immunization can help keep them in school or child care after an exposure to a measles case. If your child is exposed to a case of measles in their school or child care facility and is not up to date with their measles immunizations, you may be asked by public health, the school or child care facility to keep your child at home for up to three weeks to ensure their safety as well the safety of their peers.

In Manitoba, children can receive two doses of a measles vaccine free of charge. Children are recommended to receive the measles vaccine at 12 months of age and between ages four and six. Both the measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) and the measles-mumps-rubella-varicella (MMRV) vaccine are available.

Children aged 6 months to under 12 months can get one dose of the MMR vaccine if travelling to a country where measles is spreading consistently (endemic). The full list of eligibility criteria for the measles vaccines in Manitoba can be found at: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/vaccineeligibility.html>.

We encourage parents/guardians and caregivers to make sure their children's immunizations are up to date especially before spring break travel. If your child(ren) missed a dose, please call your health care provider or your local public health office (if outside Winnipeg) for catch-up vaccines.

You can request a copy of your child's immunization record by:

1. Submitting a request online: <https://forms.gov.mb.ca/immunization-update-request/>
2. Contacting your local public health office:
<https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/offices.html>
3. Checking if your local medical clinic or physician's office can provide them to you
4. Asking at a local nursing station or health centre

If you or your children are new to Manitoba, please submit your immunization records to Manitoba Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care. These records can then be validated and entered into Manitoba's Immunization Registry. More information on the process to submit records is available at: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/div/records.html>.

More information can be found at:

- Measles webpage: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/diseases/measles.html>
- Measles fact sheet: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/factsheets/measles.pdf>

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Richard Baydack, PhD
Director
Communicable Disease Control
Manitoba Health, Seniors and Long-Term
Care

Original signed by

Dr. Davinder Singh, MD, JD, MSc, FRCPC
Vaccine Lead, Medical Officer of Health,
Communicable Disease Control
Manitoba Health, Seniors and Long-Term
Care