



FAX about ...



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Be on Top of Spots – Measles Update

We are monitoring an increase in measles activity in the GTA. Measles is highly infectious and spread by airborne droplet, close personal contact or direct contact with the respiratory secretions of a case. Transmission can occur as a result of the **persistence** of the **virus in the air** or on **environmental surfaces** for **up to two hours**.

Signs and symptoms include fever 38.3 degrees Celsius or higher, generalized maculopapular rash and, at least one of: cough, runny nose, conjunctivitis. A red blotchy (maculopapular) rash appears on the 3rd to 7th day, beginning on the face and spreading down the body. A person with measles is infectious **four days before to four days after the onset of the rash**.

Report all suspected cases of measles **immediately** to Durham Region Health Department (DRHD). **Do not wait for laboratory confirmation**. Suspected cases should also be instructed to **remain isolated** until contacted by DRHD Staff. Patients suspected of having measles should **wear a mask** and be placed in a **separate room** when attending a health care setting. After the patient has left the room, consider the room **contaminated** with measles. **Do not use the room for 2 hours**.

Immunization is the **best protection** against contracting measles. Children are a priority group for immunization and receive **two doses** of measles-containing vaccine routinely with the first dose given at or **shortly after 12 months** and the second between **4-6 years of age**. Persons who have only ever received one dose of MMR vaccine or who are planning on travelling to an area experiencing high rate of measles should receive a second dose of MMR containing vaccine.

Diagnosis for measles includes **all** the following:

Measles Detection by PCR:	A nasopharyngeal swab collected within 7 days after the onset rash and submitted in Multi-Organism Transport Medium – Virus Respiratory Kit
	Urine (minimum 50 ml) in a sterile container within 14 days after the onset of rash
Acute Serology:	First blood specimen for measles antibodies (IgM and IgG) should be collected at the first visit (ideally within 7 days after the onset of rash)
Convalescent Serology:	Second blood specimen can be collected 7 to 10 days after the acute sample

On each laboratory requisition indicate ‘**STAT**’ “**suspect case of measles**”, symptoms and onset date, known exposure and travel history (if any) and vaccination history.

Testing information is also available on the Public Health Ontario website:

<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/ServicesAndTools/LaboratoryServices/Pages/Index.aspx>

Durham Region Health Department: 905-668-7711, 1-800-841-2729

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If you prefer to receive this information in an electronic format please submit your request to healthresources@durham.ca

If you require this information in an accessible format, contact 1-800-841-2729.