

February 23, 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The Eastern Ontario Health Unit (EOHU) would like to alert you to the increase in measles cases across the globe, and to remind you of the importance of your child's routine immunization in protecting against illness.

In December 2023, the World Health Organization reported a large increase in measles cases in Europe. The Pan-American Health Organization has also recently reported measles cases in the Americas, from travel to other countries. There are currently four active cases of measles in Canada, with two cases in Ontario, in the Region of Peel and the City of Toronto.

Measles is not considered a normally circulating illness in Canada. However, measles outbreaks can happen when someone who is more at risk of getting the disease, such as someone who is unvaccinated, travels to a country where measles circulates. They then return to Canada and can spread the illness to their contacts.

As we approach March break, we are reminding you of the importance of vaccination as a preventative measure against certain illnesses, such as measles. We are asking you to make sure you and your child(ren) are up to date on immunizations, including the measles vaccine (MMR), especially if you are planning to travel. In Ontario, children receive two doses of the MMR vaccine, the first dose on or after their first birthday, and the second dose between the ages of 4 and 6 years old.

If you or your child are not up to date on your vaccinations, contact your health care provider to receive missing immunizations. Residents without a health care provider can also receive their routine immunizations at the EOHU.

If you or a member of your family are experiencing symptoms of measles after returning home from travel or believe you may have been in contact with someone with measles, please contact your health care provider or the EOHU at 613-933-1375 or 1-800-267-7120.

Thank you,

Carolyn Armstrong,  
Program Manager, Immunization



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