

Dr. Charles Gardner, Medical Officer of Health  
Dr. Colin Lee, Associate Medical Officer of Health  
Dr. Lisa Simon, Associate Medical Officer of Health

## Measles Update #3

**Attention:** Physicians, Hospitals, CNE, ER Manager, ER Physician, Infection Control Practitioners, Occupational Health Professionals, Community Health Centres, Walk-In Urgent Care Clinic, Nurse Practitioner, Ontario Health, Ontario Health Teams, Midwives, Family Health Team, Indigenous Healthcare & Community, Long-Term Care Homes, Retirement Homes, Neighbouring Health Units, Paramedic Services, Corrections

**Date:** March 20, 2024

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The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) is continuing with case and contact management of a **laboratory confirmed measles case reported on March 12, 2024, with an unknown acquisition source**. To date, we continue to have one (1) case who is an adult with two documented doses of MMR vaccine. The case did not travel during the period of acquisition and denies attending any exposure settings linked to any of the recent confirmed cases reported in Ontario. Additional suspect cases have been reported since and are under investigation.

The period of communicability of the case is from March 4 to March 12, 2024.

Members of the public may have been exposed at the following locations (**NEW Exposure locations added in bold below**):

- Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (25 King Street, Cookstown) – March 4, 2024, 8:30am-6:30pm
- Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (25 King Street, Cookstown) – March 5, 2024, 8:30am - 2:30pm
- Walmart Superstore (30 Dunham Drive, Alliston) – March 5, 2024, 12pm-3pm
- Sobeys (247 Mill Street, Angus) – March 7, 2024, 9am-12pm
- Queens Medical Health Centre (238 Barrie Street, Thornton) - March 7, 2024, 8:30am-12pm
  - **The Queens Medical Health Centre Walk-In Clinic**
  - **The Queens Medical Spa with The Queens Institute of Skin Disease and Anti-Aging**
  - **The Queens Health Centre – Naturopath**
  - **The Queens Health Centre - Queens Family Pharmacy**
  - **The Queens Health Centre – Psychotherapy**
  - **The Queens Health Centre - Massage Therapy**
- Moon Flour Bakery (4 Massey Street, Angus) – March 8, 2024, 1130am-2:30pm
- Freshii (285 Mill Street, Unit #3, Angus) – March 8, 2024, 1130am-2:30pm
- Collingwood General Marine Hospital, Emergency Department (459 Hume Street, Collingwood) - March 8, 2024, 4pm-6:30pm

The provincial measles situation continues to evolve. At this time nine (9) cases of measles have been reported this year with seven (7) being travel related and two (2) with unknown acquisition. To date, there



have been no secondary cases from any of these cases in the province. SMDHU is anticipating an increased demand for measles testing.

**Symptoms**

Health care providers should continue remain alert to patients who present with the following key [symptoms and risk factors for](#) measles:

- Fever ( $\geq 38.3^{\circ}$  C) AND
- Cough/coryza/conjunctivitis AND
- Generalized maculopapular rash AND
- Recent travel and/or are unvaccinated and/or identify attendance at one of the exposure locations above.

**Testing**

Diagnostic testing is required for all suspect measles cases. Primary care providers are encouraged to test clinically stable patients in their offices with appropriate IPAC precautions:

- Schedule patients with compatible symptoms at a time that will minimize exposure of others (e.g., at the end of the day).
- Ask patient to mask before attending appointment.
- Immediately place patient in a single room with a door closed, negative air flow (airborne infection isolation room), if available.
- **NEW:** In addition to having immunity to measles (two doses of measles vaccination or laboratory evidence of immunity), all HCWs should wear a fit-tested, seal-checked N95 respirator when entering the room and/or caring for a patient with suspect or confirmed measles, given reports elsewhere of transmission of measles to HCWs with presumptive immunity. (See [Interim IPAC recommendations from Public Health Ontario](#))
- Droplet/Contact precautions should also be used if the client has respiratory symptoms (gown, gloves and eye protection)
- Following the patient’s visit, the exam room door must remain closed with signage to indicate that the room is not to be used for two hours.
- Only send patients to a hospital emergency department if clinically indicated and after calling ahead, to minimize high risk contacts in hospital settings.

**Specimen Collection:**

- Testing for measles should include a nasopharyngeal swab AND a throat swab AND a urine specimen
- Review the expiry dates of all specimen collection kits and ensure an adequate supply
- Nasopharyngeal Viral Transport Medium and Throat Swab testing kits can be ordered from [Public Health Ontario Laboratory](#)
- If serology is needed at a community lab, ensure infectious patients wait until the fifth day after rash onset to avoid exposure.

Test	Specimen Type	Timing of Collection	Collection Kit
Measles PCR	Measles PCR NP Swab	Within 7 days of rash onset	Virus respiratory kit (pink medium) #390082
Measles PCR	Measles PCR Throat Swab	Within 7 days of rash onset	Virus culture kit # 390081
Measles PCR	Measles PCR Urine (50 ml)	Within 14 days of rash onset	Sterile container
Measles Serology	Measles Serology Blood Test	Acute: within 7 days of rash onset Convalescent: 7-10 days after acute (preferably 10-30 days after acute)	Blood, clotted-vacutainer tubes (SST)

### **Specimen Submission:**

- Clearly mark “suspect case of measles’ on all requisitions and include the patient’s symptoms, date of onset, exposure history, travel history, and vaccination history
- Select the ‘diagnostic’ box
- Specimens must be stored and shipped cold and separate from routine specimens
- Mark **STAT** on the outside of the package
- **Contact SMDHU, ID program to report that you are testing a suspect case of measles, 1-705-721-7520 ext. 8809 during work hours (8:30am to 4:30pm, Monday to Friday) or after hours 1-888-225-7851.**

It is imperative that the PCR tests are also ordered as the serology by itself is usually not sufficient to rule in or out measles in either vaccinated or unvaccinated patients. Contact public health to discuss specimen transport to the Public Health Ontario Lab (PHOL). Please be advised that if PCR is done before a rash is present, the sensitivity of the test is reduced (increasing the potential for a false negative result).

### **Report**

Immediately report **all suspect or confirmed cases** of measles infection to SMDHU at 705-721-7520 Extension 8809 during work hours (8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday) or after hours 1-888-225-7851.

### **More information:**

- [Measles Toolkit for Health Professionals – Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit](#)
- Updated March 15, 2024 [Measles Information for Health Care Providers](#) – Public Health Ontario
- Updated March 15, 2024, [Interim IPAC Recommendations and Use of PPE for Care of Individuals with Suspect or Confirmed Measles – Public Health Ontario](#)
- [Measles Epidemiological Summary – Public Health Ontario](#)