Durham Region Health Department

FAX about...

For Health Care Professionals

Measles in Durham Region

Durham Region Health Department is investigating a laboratory confirmed case of measles in an unimmunized child with a history of international travel.

Actions Requested

1. Consider measles in patients with compatible symptoms, particularly if they are unvaccinated, partially vaccinated, immunocompromised, or have potential exposure risks such as:
    - Recent ravel to areas with measles activity (domestic or international)
    - Known contact with a measles case or an identified exposure location
2. Vaccinate patients who are not up-to-date and planning to travel.
3. To support appropriate use of acute care resources, primary care providers are encouraged to test clinically stable patients in their offices using the appropriate personal protective equipment (e.g., fit tested, seal-checked N95 respirator) and IPAC precautions.
    - **Only refer to the Emergency Department if clinically indicated and after calling ahead to IPAC on call via locating at 905 576 8711 ext. 33200.**
4. Promptly isolate any patient with suspect or confirmed measles in a single room. If no airborne infection isolation room (AIIR) is available, the patient should wear a surgical mask and be placed in a single room with the door closed. Isolate the exam room for 2 hours after the patient has left.

Clinical Presentation

The key signs and symptoms of measles include:

- Fever 38.3 degrees Celsius or higher (oral)
- Cough, runny nose (coryza) or red eyes (conjunctivitis)
- Generalized maculopapular rash for at least three days

Reporting

Measles is an immediately reportable disease in Ontario. Continue to report any cases of measles immediately to Durham Region Health Department. Advise patients to isolate while waiting for results.

- Phone: 905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729 ext. 2996
- After Hours Phone: 905-576-9991 or 1-800-372-1104
- Confidential Fax: 905-666-6215
- Access the Notification Form for Diseases of Public Health Significance at www.durham.ca/hcp

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Testing

If your patient presents with compatible symptoms and risk factors, order the following tests (or search for “Measles” on the main PHOL website):

Test	Specimen type/volume	Collection Kit	Timing of collection
Measles virus detection (PCR)	Nasopharyngeal swab	Virus respiratory kit (order #390082)	Within 7 days of rash onset
Measles virus detection (PCR)	Throat swab	Virus culture kit (order #390081)	Within 7 days of rash onset
Measles virus detection (PCR)	Urine – 50.0 mL	Sterile container	Within 14 days of rash onset
Measles serology (diagnosis)	Whole blood (5.0 mL) or serum (1.0 mL)	Blood, clotted-vacutainer tubes (SST)	*Acute*: Within 7 days of rash onset *Convalescent*: 7-10 days after the acute; preferably 10 to 30 days after acute.

- Ensure an adequate supply of specimen collection kits and review the expiry dates. Specimens submitted in an expired collection kit will be rejected.
- Testing kits can be ordered from Public Health Ontario Laboratory (PHOL).
- Ensure PCR tests are ordered as the serology alone is not sufficient for diagnosis.
- Mark **"suspect measles"** on each lab requisition. Mark **STAT** on the outside of the package.
- Specimens must be stored and shipped cold and separate from routine specimens.
- **Contact Durham Region Health Department (905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729 ext. 2996) to arrange specimen transport to PHOL.**

Vaccination

- Ensure all healthcare staff are up to date with either two doses of documented measles vaccination OR documented laboratory evidence of immunity.
- Order the MMR vaccine through regular monthly vaccine orders (order forms are available on www.durham.ca/hcp under Forms, Order).

More Information

- Measles Case and Contact Information Hub – (or durham.ca/measles)
- Information about Measles for HCP – (or durham.ca/HCP)
- Measles: Information for Health Care Providers – Public Health Ontario
- PHOL Test Information Index – Public Health Ontario Laboratory

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