



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

300 Carlton Street  
Winnipeg, Manitoba Canada R3B 3M9

April 24, 2025

**RE: Measles Cases with School Exposures Confirmed in Manitoba**

Public Health has confirmed three cases of measles this week in Manitoba, connected with recent international travel and visitors from Mexico.

Two individuals attended Southwood School in the Garden Valley School Division during the infectious period. Public health is communicating directly with the school to notify staff, volunteers and families of students who attend the school and/or who ride the school bus, to provide advice specific to their exposure. A media bulletin has also been issued (<https://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?item=68577&posted=2025-04-23>) notifying the public of possible exposure sites and times:

- Southwood School, 224 Hespeler Avenue East, Schanzenfeld, MB - April 14 and 15, 2025 during school hours and after-school until 5:30 pm.
- Bus #2683 before and after school, servicing Southwood School and Prairie Dale School (39 Church Street South, Schanzenfeld, MB) - April 14 and 15, 2025 from 8:00 - 10:35 am and 3:30 - 6:00 pm

For information about measles and other ongoing possible exposure sites, dates and times, please see: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/diseases/measles.html>.

Canada has recorded over 1000 measles cases this year, with 8% of cases requiring hospitalization. Over 90% are unvaccinated or have unknown vaccination status.

Unimmunized populations in Manitoba are at risk of experiencing a large measles outbreak.

**Facility Management**

- **Consider measles in patients presenting with fever, and rash (usually starts on the face and moves downwards) among those who have traveled or have had known contact with a measles case, particularly if they are unvaccinated.** Other symptoms may include cough, coryza and conjunctivitis.

- **Clients with suspected measles should be isolated immediately and airborne precautions implemented.**
  - Fit-tested, seal-checked **N-95 respirators should be worn by all health care workers**, regardless of presumptive immunity to measles, while providing care.
  - Additionally, as part of routine practice, **use Point of Care Risk Assessment (PCRA) to determine if other personal protective equipment (gloves, gown, eye/face protection) is required.**
  - For more details, please see Routine Practices and Additional Precautions guidelines [www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/docs/ipc/rpap.pdf](http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/docs/ipc/rpap.pdf) and the Public Health Agency of Canada's Updated Recommendations for Measles Infection Prevention and Control in Healthcare Settings <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/measles/health-professionals-measles/updated-infection-prevention-control-recommendations-healthcare-settings.html#a2>.
- Schedule visit, if possible, to minimize exposure to others (e.g. end of day, place in appropriate room immediately upon arrival, or consider NP testing outside in vehicle).
- If no airborne isolation room available, place in private room with door closed. Provide the client with a mask to wear at all times. After the visit, leave door closed and room empty for 2 hours before cleaning, or until required air exchanges if known have occurred.

### Laboratory Testing

- **Preferred specimen is a nasopharyngeal swab for measles PCR.**
- Also submit serology for measles IgM and IgG, but this will be less sensitive and specific than PCR.
- **Clinical details should be included on the laboratory requisition** including suspect measles, symptoms, travel history and/or close contact of a known measles case to ensure priority processing of the specimen.

### Reporting

If clinical suspicion is high for measles, health care providers are required to **notify public health on the same day** by sending a clinical notification form found at [www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/protocol/mhsu\\_0013.pdf](http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/protocol/mhsu_0013.pdf) even before test results are back. The Medical Officer of Health on-call (204-788-8666) should be notified after-hours.


### Advice for Suspect Cases and Unimmunized Household Members

- Suspect cases should be advised to isolate at home until test results are known.
- For asymptomatic unimmunized household contacts, recommend a measles-containing vaccine if not otherwise contraindicated (e.g. contraindicated in pregnancy, if immunosuppressed, < 6 months of age), which can prevent transmission if provided within 72 hours after exposure.
- Unimmunized household contacts should be advised to limit exposures to others/public sites while awaiting test results on the suspect case.

Please refer to the measles (rubeola) communicable disease protocol found at [www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/protocol/measles.pdf](http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/protocol/measles.pdf) for further information.

Please share this information with all colleagues at your facility/clinic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R Baydack'.

Richard Baydack, PhD  
Director  
Communicable Disease Control

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C Kurbis'.

Carol Kurbis, MD, FRCPC  
Medical Officer of Health,  
Communicable Disease Control