

Public Health Update from Southwestern Public Health



For Health Care Providers in Oxford County, Elgin County, and the City of St. Thomas

March 22, 2024

An Update from Dr. Ninh Tran, Medical Officer of Health at Southwestern Public Health

Public Health: What You Need to Know

MEASLES UPDATES

MEASLES RESOURCES

- Updated: [Case Definitions and Disease-Specific Information for Measles](#) (Ministry of Health)
- [Weekly Epidemiology Summary of Measles in Ontario](#) (Public Health Ontario) ([search query](#))
- Bookmark these webpages for ongoing updates to clinical and patient-facing materials.
 - For clinicians: <https://www.swpublichealth.ca/en/partners-and-professionals/infectious-diseases-and-reporting.aspx#measles>
 - For patients/public: www.swpublichealth.ca/measles

TESTS TO ORDER WHEN MEASLES IS SUSPECTED

- Virus detection by **PCR** (NP/throat swab AND urine) AND diagnostic serology (IgM and IgG)
 - **[Measles Virus Detection by PCR](#)**
 - [Nasopharyngeal swab](#) (NP) OR [throat swab](#) obtained 7 days of rash onset. Specimens should be collected using the Viral Transport Medium (VTM) (pink liquid medium) collection kit; AND
 - Urine: Minimum of 50 mL collected within 14 days of rash onset; AND
 - **[Diagnostic Serology:](#)**
 - A blood specimen (5 mL collected in a serum tube) for measles antibodies (IgM and IgG) should be collected at the first visit (ideally within 7 days of rash onset)
 - Diagnosis for a symptomatic patient requires testing by PCR
 - IgM serology should not be the only diagnostic test relied upon for the diagnosis of measles.

VACCINATION PATHWAYS

- Under the current provincial schedule for measles vaccination, specific populations are eligible for publicly-funded measles vaccines through various vaccination pathways.
- These populations can currently consult with and be served by Public Health or Primary Care Providers:
 - **Children up to age 18** who are due or overdue for a measles-containing vaccination.

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- **Infants aged 6 to 11 months who are travelling** to a region with a high-risk of measles transmission. They can also seek vaccination through a Travel Medicine Clinic which may include fees.
- These populations are not currently served by Public Health. They are advised to consult with their Primary Care Provider:
 - **Post-secondary student adults (18+)** who have had one dose.
 - **Adults (18+) who have had one dose and are travelling** to a region with a high-risk of measles transmission. They can also seek vaccination through a Travel Medicine Clinic which may include fees.
 - **Military personnel and health care workers** who do not yet have 2 doses of measles-containing vaccine, regardless of year of birth (unless they can demonstrate immunity to measles).
 - **Some immunocompromised individuals** who require consultation before obtaining live vaccines.
 - **Any other adult** who requires consultation about eligibility for a publicly-funded measles-containing vaccination at this time.
- SWPH is exploring options to service adults (18+) who do not have a primary care provider. Details to follow.

INTERIM INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL: MEASLES

- Technical brief: [Interim IPAC recommendations and use of PPE for care of individuals with suspect or confirmed measles](#) (Public Health Ontario).
- It recommends health care workers should wear a **fit-tested, seal-checked N95 respirator** (regardless of their presumed immune status) while providing care to individuals with suspect or confirmed measles.
- This has resulted in an update to the guide [Measles – Information for Health Care Providers](#) (Public Health Ontario) related to IPAC best practices.

OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATES

DENTAL CARE FOR SENIORS

- Seniors aged 65+ who qualify for the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program can now receive dental service through our mobile dental clinic.
- Appointments are required. Visit www.swpublichealth.ca/mobileclinic to view upcoming clinic dates in the region.

WORLD TB DAY

- World Tuberculosis (TB) Day is commemorated on March 24 to raise awareness about the health, social, and economic consequence of TB. This year's theme is 'Yes! We can end TB.'
- Refer to [our Information Update](#) for clinical reminders regarding TB testing, reporting, and surveillance.

GUIDE: WORKING WITH LOW GERMAN SPEAKING INDIVIDUALS

- The purpose of this guide is to provide service providers with information and cultural and historical context when working with Low German individuals in Southwestern Ontario.
- It was created by the Low German Speaking Mennonite Community of Practice of Elgin, St. Thomas, Oxford, and Norfolk.
- Refer to the guide here ([link](#))

SURVEY: INFANT AND EARLY MENTAL HEALTH

- The Infant and Early Mental Health Promotion program at SickKids is conducting a survey to assess primary care practitioners' knowledge needs related to infant and early mental health.
- Click here to complete the survey: <https://surveys.sickkids.ca/surveys/?s=NTXREX44MNHFCJYW>