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From the Office of Dr. Joyce Lock, Medical Officer of Health, Southwestern Public Health

Measles Update

- As of April 20, 2019, **43 cases of measles have been reported in Canada in 2019**. Cases have been reported by Québec, British Columbia, the Northwest Territories, Ontario, and Alberta.
- As of May 3, 2019, **7 cases of measles have been reported in Ontario**. Six cases are unrelated, and one was a secondary case who had close contact with an Ontario case.
- Clinicians should consider measles in patients presenting with fever and rash and other measles symptoms (cough, runny nose, conjunctivitis), among those with [recent travel](#) or who have had known contact with a case of measles.

Risks for Patients

- All persons who have not had measles disease or who have not been adequately immunized are at risk of infection.
- In Canada, adults born before 1970 are generally presumed to have acquired natural immunity to measles. This is due to high levels of measles circulation before that time.
- Between 1975 and 1996, people were only given one dose of the vaccine. A single dose is said to be around 90 per cent effective.
- Individuals at greatest risk of exposure to measles include travelers, healthcare workers, students

Vaccination

Routine Childhood Schedule

- The first dose of measles, mumps, rubella (MMR) vaccine should be offered at 12 months of age.
- A second dose of measles, mumps, rubella, and varicella (MMRV) vaccine is given at 4-6 years of age, preferably given at 4 years of age.

Unvaccinated Adults, Catch-Up Schedule

- **For unvaccinated adults ≥ 18 years of age:**
 - Born in or before 1985
 - Offer one dose of MMR

- For adults between 18-25 years of age
 - Offer a second dose of MMR, two months after the first dose
- Refer to the [Ontario Immunization Schedule](#) for additional information, including the catch-up schedule, for all ages.

Special Considerations

- **MMR vaccine for infants <12 months of age**, who will be traveling to areas where disease is a concern. **Note:** two additional doses are required at ≥1 year of age and at appropriate intervals
- **MMR vaccine for patients ≥18 years of age**, who have only received 1 dose of MMR, are eligible to receive a 2nd dose if they are:
 - health care workers
 - post-secondary students
 - planning to travel to areas where disease is a concern
 - and/or based on the health care provider's clinical judgement

Reminders

- A record of vaccines received at each visit must be provided free of charge. The Yellow Card is a permanent personal immunization record and should be brought to all immunization appointments.
- Parents are encouraged to report all immunizations online at www.swpublichealth.ca/your-health/immunization/immunization-reporting.
- In Ontario, up to date immunization records or valid exemptions are required for attendance at school, under the Immunization of School Pupils Act (designated diseases include diphtheria, tetanus, polio, pertussis, meningococcal, measles, mumps, rubella, and varicella) and child care centres under the Child Care and Early Years Act (consult your public health unit).

For Additional Information

- [Public Health Ontario Measles Update for Clinicians](#)
- Refer to the [Canadian Immunization Guide](#) for additional information.
- For vaccines not publicly funded or travel vaccines, refer to [National Advisory Committee on Immunization](#) and [Committee to Advise on Tropical Medicine and Travel](#) for indications and usage.

Reporting Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI)

- Ontario AEFI reporting form is available from [Public Health Ontario](#)
- Report AEFIs to SWPH by calling 1-800-922-0096 or faxing to 519-631-1682

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