

Measles Facts

We know that:

- Measles is one of the leading causes of death among young people globally.
- In 2013, there were 145,700 measles deaths globally – about 400 deaths every day or 16 deaths every hour. During 2000-2013, measles vaccination prevented an estimated 15.6 million deaths making measles vaccine one of the best buys in public health (Source: WHO Measles Fact Sheet N°286).
- Measles is no longer endemic in Canada, but outbreaks continue to occur.
- Cases imported from other countries remain an important source of infection.
- Transmission of measles occurs in health-care settings when persons with signs and symptoms compatible with measles are not identified and isolated promptly.

Measles is a viral illness that can result in:

- Pneumonia
- Encephalitis
- Middle ear infections
- Subacute sclerosing pan-encephalitis (SSPE)

Transmission:

- Airborne (respiratory spread)
- Must be managed with airborne transmission-based precautions as per local infection control guidelines.



Prevention:

- The best prevention is vaccination.
- Two doses of a measles-containing vaccine are required at least one month apart.
- All persons born in or after 1970 are eligible for vaccination if not already vaccinated.

IMMEDIATE notification of all suspect and confirmed cases to your local Public Health Office is required.

Local Public Health Office

MHO on call (after hours)