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Dear School Staff, Parents, Guardians and Caregivers:

Re: Ensuring a safe school environment: What will happen if there is a case of measles in school

The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted routine vaccinations, leading to an increase in measles cases globally. Cases have also been detected here in Toronto. Measles is a very contagious disease that spreads easily through the air or touching contaminated surfaces.

If a measles case is identified at school, undervaccinated/unvaccinated staff and students (without documented immunity) may be excluded for 21 days to prevent further spread of the virus. This highlights the importance of ensuring your and your child's measles vaccinations are up-to-date to protect them and the school community.

Please check your and your child's vaccination status. You or your child are considered protected against measles and can attend school if there is a measles case if one of these apply to you:

- 1. Born before 1970:** You are considered immune and protected as measles was widely spreading before 1970.

OR

- 2. Born in 1970 or later:**

- **Received two doses of the measles vaccine on or after the first birthday:** A vaccination record (such as yellow card) or health record is needed as proof of vaccination.

OR

- **Blood test result showing measles immunity:** A blood test may take some time to complete if you don't already know your status.

If you are unsure about your or your child's vaccinations history, check your or your child's Ontario Immunization Record or "yellow card," [Online Immunization Connect Ontario](#) (ICON) or speak with your primary health care provider.

Where to get vaccinated

Measles vaccines are free for all Ontarians.

Children: School-aged children can catch up on their routine vaccinations, including measles, by visiting their primary health care provider, some walk-in clinics or a TPH community clinic. TPH is offering a weekend clinic on Saturday, May 4 to make it easier for parents and guardians to get their children vaccinated. Appointments can be booked at [TPHbookings.ca](https://www.tphbookings.ca).

Adults: Adults can get vaccinated by visiting their primary health care provider and some walk-in clinics. Unsure of your measles history? If you are born before 1970 and are unsure if you had measles as a child, or you plan to travel, get one dose of the measles vaccine (MMR) for the best protection.

Report your child's vaccinations

Submit your child's measles vaccination record to TPH through [ICON](#). This helps ensure school records are up to date.

Know the signs and symptoms

Even if vaccinated, look out for symptoms if you or your child come in contact with someone with measles:

- Fever
- Red rash starts on the face and spreads down the body
- Runny nose
- Cough
- Red and watery eyes
- Small blue-white spots can appear on the inside of the mouth and throat

If you or your child experience these symptoms, **do not go to work or school**. Seek medical care. Call your doctor, primary health care provider or a walk-in clinic before visiting, so they can take precautions to avoid spreading the virus. Follow their guidance and medical advice.

More information

- Visit toronto.ca/measles-fact-sheet
- Contact Toronto Public health:
 - Email: publichealth@toronto.ca
 - Phone: 416-338-7600 (TTY: 416-392-0658) – Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Services are available in more than 300 languages.
 - After Hours: Call 311

Sincerely,



Dr. Michael Finkelstein
Deputy Medical Officer of Health
Toronto Public Health