



February 5, 2015

Dear Colleagues:

RE: Measles Update - Saskatoon Health Region

As you may be aware in Ontario, four probable cases of measles are under investigation. There have been 102 cases of measles reported in January, in the USA. As of today, no cases of measles have been reported in Saskatchewan and Saskatoon Health Region for 2015, but we had 16 cases in 2014, and would like to prepare in the event we do see cases in order to prevent the spread of disease. Measles is a serious, vaccine preventable, disease; approximately 1 in 20 will get pneumonia, and 1-2 in 1000 will die. It is easily spread through the air (coughing) and will cause infection in >90% of susceptible/unimmunized individuals who are exposed.

Clinical Presentation

Please consider measles in patients presenting with the following:

- Fever 38.3° C or higher AND
- Cough, coryza or conjunctivitis AND
- Generalized maculopapular rash beginning on the face and spreading down to the trunk & extremities (usually appears 3-7 days after onset of prodrome)

How to protect patients, staff and yourself?

- Measles vaccine is offered, free of charge, through the publicly funded immunization program to all eligible individuals.
- Please ensure all of your patients are fully immunized against measles, especially if travelling. This entails two doses of measles containing vaccine – one at age 12 months and one at 18 months or older.
- Two doses of measles containing vaccine are recommended for all persons born after 1970.
- For infants travelling to/in Disney, California, the Ministry of Health has agreed to provide **a dose of MMR vaccine** for children 6 months – less than 12 months of age. This is a temporary measure:
 - Antibodies first appear at least two weeks after measles vaccination.
 - Child will still require two doses of MMRV at 12 and 18 months of age
- Due to the highly communicable nature of measles, it is critical for all HCWs to be adequately protected against measles.
- HCWs that would be susceptible to measles include:
 - NO laboratory evidence of immunity, OR
 - NO documented evidence of two doses of measles-containing vaccine
- Within SHR, Occupational Health & Safety (OH&S) can assess and deliver immunizations to eligible SHR employees.

- If staff or patients in your clinic are unsure of immunity and had immunization in the Saskatoon Health Region, contact the Record Line at 306-655-4090. If staff or patients in your clinic are susceptible to measles and needing immunization, please visit www.saskatoonhealthregion.ca and click on immunization (under Locations & Services) to find an immunization clinic or contact Population and Public Health at 306-655-4620.

Diagnostic Tests

Order **all three tests** on all patients suspected of having measles as soon as possible on a virology requisition. Please note the date of symptom onset, recent travel history and measles vaccination history on the requisition.

NP Swab (in viral/universal transport medium)	For measles culture
Urine (in sterile container)	For measles virus culture/PCR
Blood (Please call lab ahead of time to book patient for testing so as to not expose others in the lab)	Serology for measles IgM and IgG

Infection Prevention and Control Measures

- Transmission of measles is airborne and may persist in the air/environment for 2 hours.
- In Emergency Departments: a procedure mask should be applied to patients with rash and fever. They must be triaged away from other patients into a private room as soon as possible.
- Airborne precautions must be used.
- In offices or other facilities without negative pressure rooms
 - Place a procedure mask on patients with fever and rash, AND direct the patient to a private room and close the door
 - If you suspect measles, clean and disinfect room before next use and leave the patient's room empty for 2 hours after departure
 - If discharged, advise the patient to stay home with no visitors for 4 days after the rash onset.

Reporting

Report all patients who are suspicious for measles to Population and Public Health immediately at **306-655-4612**.

Thank you for your continuing collaboration in preventing the spread of disease, and improving the health of our community.

Sincerely,

Dr. Simon Kapaj
MD MPH
Deputy Medical Health Officer