

Measles Outbreak in Vancouver

We are currently experiencing a measles outbreak in Vancouver. At this time, 7 lab-confirmed and 3 epidemiologically linked clinical cases of measles have been identified. While most affected cases are among students who attend three French schools in Vancouver, 2 secondary adult cases residing in Fraser Health have been identified. Other residents of VCH and Fraser Health may have been exposed to the disease in a variety of public locations between January 17th and February 22nd, including recent exposures at the following venues:

Date	Time	Location
February 15, 2019	5:30 am – 9:30 am	Russel Sean Fitness, Richmond
February 15, 2019	9:00 am -- 11:30 am	Canada Line Southbound from Broadway, City Hall Station to Station to Langara-49 th Avenue
February 15, 2019	9:00 am – 4:30 pm	Langara College, Tech Building
February 15, 2019	3:00 pm -- 5:30 pm	Sport Check, Richmond Centre
February 17, 2019	12:30 pm -- 2:30 pm	Starbucks, No. 1 Road and Bayview, Richmond
February 17, 2019	1:00 pm -- 3:45 pm	Dave's Fish and Chips, Steveston
February 18, 2019	11:00 am -- 7:15 pm	Scandinave Spa, Whistler
February 18, 2019	9:45 am -- 11:45 am	McDonald's Restaurant, Squamish

We ask that physicians remain vigilant for further clinical cases of measles. Measles initially presents with a fever, cough, runny nose, and conjunctivitis, which is then followed a few days later by a red maculopapular rash. The rash begins in the hairline and spreads rapidly to the face, trunk and limbs. Koplik spots, if present, fade as the rash appears.

If you suspect that you have a patient presenting with measles, please immediately notify the Medical Health Officer at 604-675-3900 (After hours: 604-527-4893) and take the following steps:

1. **1) Promptly isolate patients with suspect measles.** Measles is airborne and highly infectious. To protect others in the office, please provide the patient with potential measles with a surgical mask and place them in a private room immediately. Importantly, the exam room should not be used for two hours after the patient has left. Suspect cases will need to stay isolated at home until four days after rash onset.
2. **2) To confirm the diagnosis,** please collect a viral nasopharyngeal or throat swab (using a UTM swab, the same swab used for influenza) and collect a urine sample for measles virus detection. Collection of blood for serologic testing is also advised (request testing of measles IgG and IgM; mark as 'ACUTE measles'). Please use your delivery service to courier the specimens directly to the BCCDC Public Health Laboratory for rapid testing.

You can reach a Medical Health Officer in Vancouver at 604.675.3900 Toll free at 1.855.675.3900
For public health emergencies after hours contact the Medical Health Officer on call at 604.527.4893

Vancouver Medical Health Officers
Dr. Patricia Daly (Chief Medical Health Officer)
Dr. Réka Gustafson, Dr. John Harding, Dr. Althea Hayden, Dr. James Lu

To receive Physicians' Updates by email please contact us at: vchregistrationcdc@vch.ca

Please take this opportunity to immunize against measles. Two doses of MMR vaccine are recommended for patients born after January 1, 1970; those born before that date are considered to be immune. Health care workers born between 1957 and 1969 are recommended to have two doses of MMR vaccine. It is safe to immunize patients who are uncertain about their measles immunization history.

We are not currently recommending early vaccination of children aged 6-12 months. Nor does the second MMR dose, targeted for children 4-6 years need to be given early. To date, all cases have occurred among school aged children and their family members. For this reason, we do not believe that early immunization is currently necessary but this recommendation could change if we see wider transmission in our community.

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