

Ministry of Health

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Ministère de la Santé

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May 13, 2025

Dear Principals of all Inspected/Non-Inspected Private Schools and First Nations/
Federally Operated Schools,

As you are likely aware, Ontario, like many parts of the world, is experiencing a large measles outbreak, with approximately 1,440 outbreak cases reported as of May 8, 2025. Over 90% of cases in Ontario linked to this outbreak are among individuals who are unimmunized or of unknown immunization status, and approximately 50% of outbreak-related cases in Ontario have been among individuals between the ages of five to 19. Although cases are among 17 public health units, the vast majority most cases are in southwestern Ontario.

Individuals with measles are contagious before symptoms appear, meaning they may be at school while infectious. While the Ministry of Health and my office are working closely with local public health agencies to promote vaccination, the current outbreak has resulted in a few school exposures in the province, including both elementary and secondary schools— though no secondary transmission has been reported, thanks to strong local collaboration and partnerships.

Under the *Immunization of School Pupils Act* (ISPA) measles vaccine records or valid exemptions, for students must be reported to the local public health agency. This reporting supports the public health response to a measles case and exposure in a school, as records are available to identify individuals who are not immune. Individuals who are not immune and have been exposed to measles will be required by the local public health agency to be excluded from school to prevent additional exposures in the school should they become infected.

The ISPA is specific to students and does not apply to staff for the provision of their immunization records to their local public health agency. However, when there is a measles exposure in a school, the school administration will be requested by the local

public health agency to advise their staff to immediately provide proof of their immune status to the local public health agency. Any staff, including volunteers, who cannot provide records of immunity, may need to be excluded from school by public health until they can provide records of immunity or until they no longer pose a risk of infection. When staff are not able to provide records in a timely manner, this has resulted in schools not being able to operate for in-person attendance due to a lack of staff.

We are asking all school boards to provide this information to each of their schools as a reminder of the importance of ensuring their staff are prepared to provide immunization records (or other documentation of immunity) in a timely manner to prevent disruptions to school operations.

School administrators should strongly consider advising staff to proactively gather this information now given current measles activity to prevent any disruptions to in-person learning.

Although the school year is coming to an end over the next couple of months, there also needs to be consideration given to summer school given the unknown timeline for the ongoing measles outbreak.

School administrators should also consider reminding staff annually to remain up to date on their immunizations and to ensure they have their immunization records readily available.

Additional information:

- [About measles | ontario.ca](#) – Checking your immunization records
- [Measles | Public Health Ontario](#) – Outbreak updates & resources

Thank you for your continued support and efforts to keep schools safe.

Sincerely,



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Chief Medical Officer of Health and Assistant Deputy Minister, Public Health