



Office of the Medical Officer of Health
Halton Region Public Health
1151 Bronte Road
Oakville ON L6M 3L1

February 27, 2024

RE: Important information related to increased global measles activity

Dear Parents/Guardians of Halton Children:

As we approach March break, Halton Region Public Health would like to alert families to the global rise in measles. If you or your family are traveling over March break, check that your vaccines are up to date according to the [Publicly Funded Immunization Schedule](#), before travelling.

[Measles](#) virus is easily spread when an infected person coughs or sneezes. The virus can stay in the air and on surfaces for hours, making it easy to catch. Measles symptoms usually include fever, cough, runny nose, and a rash that starts on the face and spreads over the body and can cause serious complications.

Vaccination is the Best Protection

The best way to prevent measles and other vaccine preventable diseases is staying up to date on all immunizations. Many people may have fallen behind during the COVID-19 pandemic. You can view your immunization record [here](#), or check your physical yellow card. Most people need one or two doses of [Measles, Mumps, Rubella \(MMR\) vaccine](#) (see Table). Some countries may have specific guidelines or additional vaccines that are recommended. See the [Public Health Agency of Canada's](#) website for more information.

Children 12 months and older
One dose of MMR at age 12 months, and second* dose of MMR-V at age 4-6 years old is required.
Individuals born in 1970 or later
Two* doses of the MMR vaccine is recommended.
Adults born before 1970
May have had measles as it was widely circulating. Adults who are unsure if they had measles or received a vaccine can get a MMR vaccine.
Infants 6-11 months old
Can receive MMR vaccine early <u>if traveling to areas where measles is present</u> . Two additional doses will still be required on or after the first birthday.

* Two doses provides over 95% protection from the measles virus.

Where to get vaccinated

If you and your family need to catch up, contact your primary care provider. Healthcare providers can assess your vaccination record and provide any missing vaccine. Routine vaccinations are also available at [walk-in clinics](#). Report any to Public Health [here](#).

Wishing everyone a safe and enjoyable March break,

Halton Region Public Health

Regional Municipality of Halton

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