

Measles

The Station Arts Centre takes the health of our staff, campers, volunteers and visitors incredibly seriously. We work and see many people throughout the week that are elderly, immunocompromised, or too young for many vaccinations.

With that, we are following the protocols and updates from Southwestern Public Health to ensure the safety of those above and those attending the camps.

If your child is feeling ill, we ask that you please keep them home to avoid spreading the illness.

The Station Arts Staff will isolate and call parents to pick up any children exhibiting symptoms of a cold - particularly those inline with the Measles.

We then ask to kindly read the below information and follow the steps provided for further clarification.

What is measles?

Measles is a highly contagious virus. It spreads easily through the air when someone with measles breathes, coughs, or sneezes.

Measles is a reportable disease of public health significance that can result in complications such as diarrhea, ear infections, and pneumonia. Rarely, measles can cause brain infections and death.

Check or update your immunization record to make sure you and your family are up-to-date with vaccinations.

How many measles cases are there?

The epidemiology team at Southwestern Public Health publishes a weekly Measles Outbreak Report to provide an overview of the current measles situation in the region. It is published on Thursdays until further notice. This report is not intended to serve as a personal risk assessment tool for measles. You can view the report on our **Surveillance and Dashboards** page.

If you were born in 1970 or later, and are not up-to-date with your vaccinations, please call public health at 1-800-922-0096 ext. 1232. This includes those who were only there briefly on the dates and times shown.

A public exposure notice is issued when we are not confident that we can reach everyone who may have been exposed to measles in each situation. Public exposure notices are not required in situations when we are confident we have informed everyone who may have been exposed to measles. Read our **news updates** for more information.

What should you do if you were exposed to measles?

Check immunization records

Make sure you and your family are up to date with measles vaccines (MMR or MMRV).

- Most people need two doses if born in 1970 or later
- People born before 1970 are usually considered protected
- Check your **immunization records** or ask your health care provider to confirm

Watch for symptoms

Measles symptoms can appear up to 21 days after exposure. Even if you are vaccinated, stay alert for:

- Fever
- Cough, runny nose, red eyes
- Rash that starts on the face and spreads

If you are not vaccinated, avoid contact with:

- Pregnant individuals
- Young children
- People with weakened immune systems

Call before visiting a health care setting

If you think you have measles, were exposed, or are a close contact, call before visiting a doctor, hospital, clinic or any other health care setting. This helps protect others and allows health care providers to prepare for your visit.

Vaccination

The best way to protect against measles is vaccination. Two doses of measles-containing vaccine (MMR and/or MMRV) is 99 per cent effective in preventing a measles infection.

The measles vaccine is a publicly funded, routine childhood vaccine in Ontario. Check your **immunization records** or ask your healthcare provider to confirm your vaccinations.

Eligibility for measles vaccination

Due to ongoing measles activity in the Southwestern Public Health region and in consultation with the Ministry of Health, measles vaccine eligibility has been expanded to include anyone

who lives, works, attends school, travels to, or participates in activities (such as sports or worship) within the region.