

March 4, 2024

From the Office of the Chief Medical Health Officer

Case of Measles Confirmed in Richmond

A case of measles was diagnosed in Richmond on March 2, 2024 following recent exposure in Central Asia. Other individuals may have been exposed at the times and locations listed below:

February 26, 9:00am - 1:00pm: ICBC location at 5300 No 3 Road, Richmond

February 24 - March 2: Vancouver Airport Hotel, 7188 Westminster Highway, Richmond

This is the first case of measles in BC since 2019. Anyone who is not immune and may have contracted measles from the current exposures would be expected to develop symptoms between March 2 - 23. Given this exposure and the resurgence of measles illness activity in many areas around the world, we ask that physicians remain vigilant for further clinical cases of measles. Key points:

- Measles initially presents with a **fever, cough, runny nose, and conjunctivitis**. Three to four days after fever onset, an **erythematous maculopapular rash** begins in the hairline, which then spreads rapidly to the face, trunk and limbs. Koplik spots, if present, fade as the rash appears.
- To confirm the diagnosis, please collect a **nasopharyngeal or throat swab** (using a COPAN red top swab) **and urine specimen** for measles virus detection by RT-PCR, **and bloodwork for serologic testing** (measles IgG and IgM; mark as 'ACUTE measles').
- **Promptly isolate patients with suspect measles** into either a private room or a negative-pressure room, if available. Measles is airborne and highly infectious. The patient should remain masked during the entirety of the appointment and 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.
- **Immediately notify Public Health of all suspect measles cases**, preferably while the patient is in your office. To report a communicable disease, including suspect case of measles, please call:
 - 604-675-3900, Mon-Fri, 8:30 am – 5:00 pm
 - 604-527-4893, after-hours and weekends

Please take this opportunity to immunize against measles. Two doses of MMR vaccine are recommended for people born January 1, 1970 or later and for all health care workers born January 1, 1957 or later; those born earlier are considered to be immune. Patients with an uncertain immunization history, or those born pre 1970 (or pre 1957 for health care staff) reporting no history of measles infection may also be immunized. Two doses of MMR vaccine are currently offered to children at 1 year of age and kindergarten entry, and have been part of the routine immunization schedule in BC since 1996. All school-age children from kindergarten to grade 12 were also offered a second dose of measles-rubella vaccine in BC in 1996.

Early vaccination is only recommended for families embarking on international travel. Children who are travelling and have received their first dose of measles vaccine at age 12 months should receive their second dose early (with a minimum interval of 4 weeks after the first dose). Children 6-11 months of age should be offered an early dose of MMR for protection. This dose will not count towards their series and will need to be repeated at 12 months of age. Older children and adults born after January 1, 1970 who are travelling should be offered an MMR if they are not certain they have had two previous doses.

You can reach a Medical Health Officer 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 Coastal Health Medical Health Officers

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