

**From:** Dr. Janice Fitzgerald, Chief Medical Officer of Health

**To:** Health Care Practitioners in Newfoundland and Labrador

**Re:** Update on Measles and Vaccine Eligibility

**Date:** March 19, 2025

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The Department of Health and Community Services (HCS) continues to monitor the increase in cases of measles globally and nationally. Cases of measles have been identified in multiple provinces with some provinces reporting community transmission. Currently, there are no cases of measles in NL.

We ask that medical practitioners consider measles as part of the differential diagnosis when an individual presents with compatible symptoms, especially if there is a travel history. It is prudent to inquire about travel and vaccination history in any person presenting with undifferentiated fever. Health care practitioners are encouraged to review [Measles: Information for Healthcare Providers \(gov.nl.ca\)](https://gov.nl.ca) for the latest information regarding diagnosis and management of suspected measles cases.

Measles is a reportable disease under the Public Health Protection and Promotion Regulations. Any suspect case of measles must be **reported immediately** to public health by telephone. Please see information on reporting [here](#).

Public Health recommends individuals **traveling outside of Newfoundland and Labrador** ensure they are protected against measles. Measles vaccination recommendations for travelers are as follows:

- Individuals born in or after 1970 should have documentation of two doses of MMR vaccine prior to traveling.
- Individuals born before 1970 should have documentation of one dose of MMR vaccine prior to traveling.
- Infants 6 to 12 months of age are eligible for one dose of MMR vaccine prior to traveling. (Infants will still follow the routine immunization schedule and receive MMRV vaccine at 12 and 18 months of age).
- Children 12 months or older should have two doses of MMRV vaccine prior to traveling. Children who are less than 18 months old can get their second dose of MMRV before 18 months old if they are traveling outside NL, provided it has been at least four weeks since their first dose.

Ideally, measles vaccination for travel should be administered at least two weeks before traveling; however, there are still benefits if given less than two weeks before travel.

Individuals in the categories above may be offered vaccination through the publicly funded vaccine program. Individuals can receive MMR or MMRV vaccine by contacting their local public health office to book an appointment.