

Measles: Questions for Camp Operators and Parents

What is measles?

- Measles is a highly contagious respiratory virus that spreads through the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes. The virus spreads easily among those who have not been vaccinated.
- Symptoms of measles begin within 7 to 21 days after exposure and include: fever, runny nose, cough, drowsiness, irritability, soreness and redness of the eyes, and/or a red blotchy rash starting on the face and spreading down the body.
- Ontario has been experiencing an increase in measles cases since the end of October 2024.
- There have been outbreaks in several regions of Ontario. Visit [Measles Exposures in Ontario | Public Health Ontario](#) for more information
- For more information about measles, visit: [Measles | Lakelands Public Health](#)

What can campers do to prevent measles?

- Do not send your child to camp if your child has symptoms of measles (see above) and contact your local Health Unit.
- Immunization is the best protection against measles. 1 dose of measles vaccine provides 95% protection, and 2 doses provides almost 100% protection.
- Review your child's immunizations to ensure they are up to date and protected against measles.

Visit [Measles | Lakelands Public Health](#) for information on immunization.

- If you need the vaccine, visit your healthcare provider to receive one or contact your local public health unit to see if they can immunize you/your child(ren)

What happens if measles is reported at camp?

Lakelands Public Health will check the vaccination records of all children, staff, and volunteers at the affected recreation camp. Anyone who may not be protected against measles and was exposed to a case may be sent home. They can return once their vaccination record is reviewed and shows they are protected (for example, they have had two measles vaccines). This is done to keep everyone healthy and safe.

What action should camps be prepared to take, should a measles exposure occur at camp?

Camps must have separate contingency plans to isolate both confirmed measles cases and susceptible contacts from the rest of the camp population while they await pick-up. If the Health Unit recommends exclusion, these two groups must be accommodated in distinct, separate areas.

Correspondingly, parents and guardians are required to have an emergency pick-up plan ready. This ensures children can be collected within the camp's required timeframe if they fall ill or are identified as a contact needing isolation.