Measles Infection Prevention and Control Quick reference guide for health care workers

Measles is a highly communicable disease. Take prompt action to prevent spread!

When to suspect measles

- Fever ≥ 38° Celsius
- Cough, coryza (runny nose) OR conjunctivitis (red eye)
- Generalized maculopapular (non-vesicular) rash appears 3-7 days after symptom onset, starting on the face and spreading to trunk, arms, and legs.
- Koplik spots can be present in some patients and appear as white spots on the buccal mucosa.

Images credit: U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Public Health Image Library





Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Measures

AS SOON AS POSSIBLE:

- Implement airborne additional precautions and follow routine practices.
- Wear a fit-tested and seal-checked respirator (e.g., N95 respirator or equivalent), and additional personal
 protective equipment (PPE) based on point-of-care risk assessment (e.g., eye protection, gown and gloves).
- Have the patient wear a medical mask and clean their hands when presenting to reception areas or when outside the patient room.
- Place patient in an airborne infection isolation room (e.g., negative pressure room) or if unavailable, a single occupancy room with the door closed.
- Post additional precaution sign outside the patient room.
- Notify IPC (where available).

NEXT STEPS:

- Notify Public Health/Medical Health Officer if there is a strong clinical suspicion or confirmation of measles.
- Consult with IPC before discontinuing additional precautions.
- Allow two hours of air clearance time (where the air exchanges rate per hour is unknown) before placing another patient in room.

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

- PICNet Measles IPC Information for Health Care Workers: picnet.ca/guidelines/pathogens
- BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) Communicable Disease Manual Measles Section: www.bccdc.ca/ health-professionals/clinical-resources/communicable-disease-control-manual/communicable-disease-control

Laboratory testing

- Collect specimens for measles testing: nasopharyngeal (NP) swab, urine, blood serology for IgM and IgG.
- Follow organizational guidance for specimen collection or refer to BCCDC Lab Services: www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/professional-resources/laboratory-services;
- Notify Medical Microbiology on-call to facilitate expedited testing.

Local IPC and/or public health contact

Health authority staff to refer to Provincial Workplace Health Services for reporting staff exposures and immunization status: healthbc.sharepoint.com/sites/PWHSHealthBC

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