



Lambton Public Health

Health Care Provider Newsletter and Update

From: Dr. Karalyn Dueck, Medical Officer of Health

Date: Monday, March 18, 2024
Pages: 1
To: **Health Care Providers**
From: Dr. Dueck, Medical Officer of Health
Re: **Public Health Ontario – Interim IPAC Recommendations and Use of PPE for Care of Individuals with Suspect or Confirmed Measles**

Lambton Public Health is alerting health care providers of new interim Public Health Ontario recommendations for Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) measures when receiving individuals at a health care facility who are suspected or confirmed to have measles.

Health care workers are at increased risk for occupationally acquired measles infection, in part due to increased exposure to patients who are ill with measles seeking health care. Their risk is higher than the general population. Patients who are ill enough to be hospitalized are also generally at the peak of their communicability with high viremia and viral shedding.

As per Public Health Ontario, below are key interim IPAC recommendations and use of personal protective equipment (PPE) for care of individuals with suspect or confirmed measles:

- Given the transmissibility and potential for health care worker exposure, there is consensus that **only health care workers with presumptive evidence of immunity against measles should provide direct patient care to patients with suspected or confirmed measles**. Presumptive evidence of immunity for health care workers includes at least two doses of measles-containing vaccine received on or after their first birthday or laboratory evidence of immunity, regardless of year of birth.
- **All health care workers regardless of presumptive immunity to measles** should follow all IPAC precautions based on risk assessment (e.g., airborne + contact & droplet precautions), **including wearing a fit-tested, seal-checked N95 respirator** when entering the room and/or caring for a patient with suspect/confirmed measles, given reports of transmission of measles to health care workers with presumptive immunity.
- Patients should also be placed in an **airborne infection isolation room (AIIR)** whenever possible and they should wear a medical mask, if tolerated.

Please review [Public Health Ontario's full details for other IPAC recommendations](#). In accordance with IPAC recommendation updates, Public Health Ontario has also updated its document [Measles: Information for Health Care Providers](#).

For suspect measles, [implement airborne and other additional precautions](#) and [immediately report suspected cases to Lambton Public Health](#) at 519-383-8331.

LambtonPublicHealth.ca/HCP

Your hub for up-to-date clinical guidance, resources, and forms.

Telephone: 519-383-8331
160 Exmouth Street
Point Edward, ON N7T 7Z6



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