

Human Resource Services and Staff Well-Being

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board 20 Education Court, P.O. Box 2558 Hamilton, ON L8N 3L1

INTERNAL MEMO

DATE: May 22, 2025

TO: All Staff

FROM: Jason Alexander, Executive Officer, Human Resource Services and Staff Well-Being

Lety Goddard, Senior Manager, Human Resource Services and Staff Well-Being

SUBJECT: Ontario Ministry of Health Direction on Measle Immunizations for Staff

Background:

As you are aware, Ontario is experiencing a large measles outbreak, with approximately 1,440 cases reported as of May 8, 2025. Over 90% of cases in Ontario linked to this outbreak are among individuals who are unimmunized or of unknown immunization status, and approximately 50% of outbreak-related cases in Ontario have been among individuals between the ages of five to 19.

Individuals with measles are contagious before symptoms appear, meaning they may be at school while infectious. The current outbreak has resulted in a few school exposures in the province, including both elementary and secondary schools — though no secondary transmission has been reported at this time.

Under the *Immunization of School Pupils Act* (ISPA), measles vaccine records or valid exemptions, for students must be reported to the local public health agency. The ISPA is specific to students and does not apply to staff for the provision of their immunization records to their local public health agency.

The Ministry of Health has advised that when there is a measles exposure in a school, the school administration will be requested by the local public health agency to advise their staff to immediately provide proof of their immune status to the local public health agency. Any staff, including volunteers, who cannot provide records of immunity, may need to be excluded from school by public health until they can provide records of immunity or until they no longer pose a risk of infection.

Individuals who are not immune and have been exposed to measles will be required by the local public health agency to be excluded from school to prevent additional exposures in the school should they become infected.

ACTION:

The Ministry of Health has advised that all staff be prepared to provide immunization records (or other documentation of immunity) to public health should there be any measles activity within your school or department in a timely manner to prevent disruptions to school operations.

Principals and Vice-Principals we ask that you share this information with any School Volunteers.

Additional information:

About measles | ontario.ca - Checking your immunization records

Measles | Public Health Ontario - Outbreak updates & resources

