

March 3 2023

Dear childcare operators,

The re-emergence of certain vaccine preventable diseases is being seen in parts of the world and is cause for concern. Ottawa Public Health (OPH) is monitoring the emergence of measles, and we are making continued efforts to increase uptake and coverage of routine childhood vaccinations. Thousands of children and youth in Ottawa are missing routine vaccinations that would protect them from measles and other vaccine preventable diseases. Vaccinations required for attending childcare and school should be kept up to date.

**Prevention through vaccination is the best protection.** You can help us by encouraging parents and caregivers to check their child's immunization records to ensure vaccinations have been reported to OPH. Parents and caregivers can find out if their child is due for vaccination, and which vaccinations have already been reported to OPH, by visiting our website at [ParentingInOttawa/RoutineVaccination](https://parentinginottawa.ca/routinevaccination).

Children and youth facing barriers in accessing routine childhood vaccinations through a primary health care provider can now attend an OPH Family and Community Vaccination Clinic currently hosted in different locations across Ottawa. Routine childhood vaccinations are also available at OPH Neighbourhood Health and Wellness hubs located in priority neighbourhoods. Clinic hours and locations are described on OPH's website [ParentinginOttawa.ca/RoutineVaccination](https://parentinginottawa.ca/routinevaccination).

### **In case of exposure**

In the instance that a childcare attendee is confirmed to have measles, OPH would reach out to the affected childcare provider to discuss next steps to reduce the risk of transmission in the childcare setting.

An exposed child who does not have two doses of a measles containing vaccine documented with OPH will be excluded from childcare until OPH confirms that they have received two doses or have evidence of immunity, or the risk of exposure or the outbreak is declared over. An exposed staff member will be required to report to OPH their measles immunization status or evidence of immunity and may be excluded until such information is confirmed.

Information will be shared with you as it evolves. Please do not hesitate to share this email with your organization or networks. If you have any questions, concerns or needs for support, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at [nancy.langdon@ottawa.ca](mailto:nancy.langdon@ottawa.ca).

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