



**Northwestern
Health Unit**

www.nwhu.on.ca

210 First Street North
Kenora, ON P9N 2K4

March 8, 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Background:

The risk of measles disease in Ontario and in Canada is higher now than it has been in many years. Most adults born before 1970 are immune related to having had measles infection, and most adults born since then have either had measles or have been immunized.

Children with incomplete immunization and anyone else not immune may be at risk. Measles is a highly contagious disease and can stay in the air and infect others for up to two hours after they have left the room. 90% of non-immune individuals who are exposed to measles will be infected. Complications of measles include diarrhea, pneumonia, blindness and infection of the brain. Complications such as otitis media and bronchopneumonia occur in about 10% of reported cases.

Your student and school:

Some students in your student's school are not fully immunized for measles, which increases the likelihood of a potential outbreak of measles in the school. If there is a measles case within the school, infected students will be excluded for 4 days after the onset of the rash, and any students who do not have two doses of the measles vaccine will be excluded from attending school for up to 21 days.

If your student has not received an MMR vaccine after their 4th birthday, they are likely not fully protected. To check your student's vaccination status, please visit:
<https://nwhu.icon.ehealthontario.ca/> or email vaccines@nwhu.on.ca.

Vaccination clinics:

Over March Break, Northwestern Health Unit (NWHU) will be offering walk-in clinics for measles vaccinations. **Students who have received an immunization notice from NWHU can attend a walk-in clinic to get the measles vaccine.** Visit www.nwhu.on.ca for dates and times of the clinics. Additionally, if your student has an exemption on file, and you now wish for them to be vaccinated against measles due to the increased risk, please attend a clinic or contact us.

Please contact your local NWHU office if you have any questions.

Have a safe and healthy March Break!

Dr. Kit Young Hoon
Medical Officer of Health
Northwestern Health Unit