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February 14, 2023

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Ontario Health, Public Health Ontario, Public Health Units

**FROM:** Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health, Public Health

**RE:** Measles Preparedness

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Dear Health System and Public Health Partners,

As you know, the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted all vaccine preventable disease coverage across the lifespan, but especially measles. While significant catch-up efforts are underway, even small declines in population coverage can result in significant risk and spread for highly transmissible pathogens like Measles.

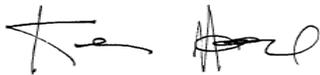
The [Pan-American Health Organization](#) issued a statement on February 8, 2023 regarding the increasing risk of measles in the Americas and globally. Measles coverage for both 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> doses across the Americas and elsewhere globally has dropped, including in Canada. With reduced border measures and increased travel anticipated over March break, it is strongly recommended that:

- Health care providers are alerted to include measles in their differential diagnoses, particularly in returning travellers with respiratory symptoms.
  - o Measles is a reportable disease and any suspected cases should be promptly reported by health care providers to their local public health unit.

- o Suspected measles cases should be placed under airborne precautions and tested. More information on testing can be found at the Public Health Ontario Laboratory Test Information Sheet for measles: [here](#)
- Hospital Occupational Health and Safety and health care provider offices should ensure ALL staff are up to date with either two doses of documented measles vaccination OR documented laboratory evidence of immunity. This includes for individuals born prior to 1970, as per the OHA/OMA [Measles Communicable Diseases Protocol](#)
- Health care providers support their patients in remaining up to date with all routine vaccinations (including measles), especially in advance of any upcoming travel and inform their patients to report vaccines received to their local public health unit. Given upcoming March break travel and increased risk of exposure through the Americas and globally, patients intending to travel should be advised to get immunized as soon as possible.

Thank you for sharing this memo widely with your members as well for the excellent efforts to date in ensuring Ontarians are protected from vaccine preventable diseases.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kieran Moore', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr. Kieran Moore, MD, CCFP(EM), FCFP, MPH, DTM&H, FRCPC, FCAHS  
Chief Medical Officer of Health, Public Health