

# Info-MADO

## Newsletter on Reportable Diseases

### Nunavik Department of Public Health

## ALERT: MEASLES

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### Context

Two confirmed cases of measles in children of the same family were reported to the Outaouais Department of Public Health. These infections were acquired outside the country, but both cases were in the contagious phase during the trip back to Québec. Close or significant contacts were reached by the Outaouais Department of Public Health.

During their contagious period, both cases travelled aboard a flight from Brussels to Montréal (Flight AC-833) and were at the Pierre-Elliott-Trudeau Airport on October 9, 2023. The *ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux (MSSS)* sent an e-mail to the travellers and flight personnel. Persons present at the Montréal Airport on October 9, 2023, are not automatically considered as significant contacts. However, in case of symptoms, this potential exposure should be considered in the medical assessment. This is therefore a situation with an elevated risk of epidemic.

### Epidemiology

Measles is endemic in many parts of the world, particularly Latin America, Africa, Asia, the Middle East, New Zealand and many European countries.

### Signs and symptoms

#### *Prodrome*

- High fever ( $\geq 38.3^{\circ}\text{C}$ )
- Conjunctivitis, with or without photophobia
- Coryza
- Cough
- Koplik spots (one to two days before rash)

#### *Maculopapular rash (three to five days after onset of prodrome)*

- Initially on face and neck, then generalized
- Lasts at least three days

### Contagiousness

- From four days before appearance of rash to four days after

### Case treatment

- No specific treatment
- Supportive care in case of complications

## Diagnostic tests

Test	Period for taking specimen
Viral culture	Nasopharyngeal: ≤ 4 days after onset of rash. Urinary: ≤ 7 days after onset of rash.
IgM serology	From 3 to 28 days after onset of rash.
IgG serology	1 <sup>st</sup> serum (acute phase): ≤ 7 days after onset of rash. 2 <sup>nd</sup> serum (convalescence): 1 to 3 weeks after first specimen.
Nucleic Acid Amplification Testing (NAAT)	Nasopharyngeal: ≤ 4 days after onset of rash. Urine: ≤ 7 days after onset of rash.

\* IgM serology to test for parvovirus B-19 and rubella is also recommended in order to exclude these diagnoses.

## For clinicians

Considering the context, there is a risk of outbreak in Québec. We are asking clinicians to increase their alert level.

## For suspected cases

- The patient must wear a surgical mask and attending personnel must wear an N-95 respirator.
- Isolate the patient in a closed room.
- Inform your institution's infection prevention and control advisor without delay.
- Report any suspected cases without delay to the physician on duty for the Nunavik Department of Public Health by telephone at 1-855-964-2244 or 1-819-299-2990.

**Vaccination is the best protection against measles and its complications. It is essential to take all opportunities to check immunization status and offer vaccination to inadequately protected clientele.**

## Useful links

- MSSS Web site on measles (for professionals):  
<http://www.msss.gouv.qc.ca/professionnels/maladies-infectieuses/rougeole/>
- Québec immunization protocol (PIQ):  
<http://www.msss.gouv.qc.ca/professionnels/vaccination/piq-vaccins/rro-vaccin-contre-la-rougeole-la-rubeole-et-les-oreillons/>
- [Alerte! Rougeole! \(gouv.qc.ca\)](http://www.msss.gouv.qc.ca/alerte-rougeole/)