

From: Dr. Janice Fitzgerald, Chief Medical Officer of Health

To: Health Care Practitioners in Newfoundland and Labrador

Re: Update on Measles and Vaccine Eligibility

Date: March 13, 2024

The Department of Health and Community Services (HCS) continues to monitor the increase in measles transmission globally. From a national perspective, cases have been identified in Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan and BC; some with community transmission. Currently there are no cases of measles in NL.

It is highly recommended individuals traveling to a [measles endemic country](#) ensure they are protected against measles. Travelers to destinations outside Canada should also ensure their measles vaccination is up to date. Measles vaccination recommendations for international travelers are as follows:

- Infants 6 – 12 months of age should receive one dose of MMR vaccine prior to traveling. Vaccination for protection against measles will still be recommended at 12 and 18 months of age with the MMRV vaccine as per provincial immunization schedule.
- Individuals born in or after 1970 should have documentation of two doses of MMR vaccine prior to traveling.
- Individuals born before 1970 should have documentation of one dose of MMR vaccine prior to traveling.

Individuals in the categories above may be offered vaccination through the publicly funded system. Health care practitioners may offer publicly-funded MMR vaccination in their clinics if they have a pre-existing supply. Those that do not have a supply of MMR vaccine may refer individuals to local public health clinics.

The supply of MMR vaccine is being closely monitored by provincial and federal jurisdictions and public health will not be able to provide MMR vaccine to primary care practitioners at this time. Individuals can receive the MMR vaccine by contacting their local public health office to book an appointment.

Please note that children 12 months to 12 years of age are eligible for protection against measles **with MMRV vaccine**. MMRV vaccine is available through local public health offices only. Public health continues to offer protection against measles as part of our routine childhood immunization program at 12 and 18 months of age.

For more information please review [Measles: Information for Healthcare Providers \(gov.nl.ca\)](#)