

COR-2025-208231

MEMORANDUM

To: 2025 Canada Games Provincial and Territorial Chefs de Mission

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

Subject: **Measles Precautions for Canada Games Attendees**

Date: May 20, 2025

We look forward to welcoming you to Newfoundland and Labrador this summer for the 2025 Canada Games. Our priority is to ensure a safe environment for everyone. I am writing to emphasize the importance of ensuring all attendees, including athletes, coaches, and support staff, follow public health guidance for measles prevention.

Measles is highly contagious and can cause serious illness. Currently, Canada is experiencing measles outbreaks in multiple provinces. The large number of people expected at the Games, many of whom will be travelling from areas reporting outbreaks, underscores the need to prevent the spread of measles through vaccination. The measles vaccine is safe and nearly 100 per cent effective. It is strongly recommended those travelling to Newfoundland and Labrador ensure they are up to date on their measles vaccines. Participants can contact their health care provider or local public health department to check if catch-up vaccines are required and we recommend receiving them **at least two weeks prior to departure for optimal protection**. Additionally, attendees should bring a copy of their vaccination record with them to the Games.

It is important to be aware of measles symptoms and avoid public spaces if symptoms develop. Participants should immediately report any symptoms to Medical Services at the 2025 Canada Games through the Polyclinic for guidance on isolation and to receive necessary care. Early symptoms may include fever, aches and pains, runny nose, red eyes, and cough. As measles progresses, a rash typically appears on the face and head and spreads down the body to the arms and legs.

Public Health highly recommends that participants bring their vaccination record or proof of immunity against measles to the Games. If a measles outbreak occurs during the Games, anyone exposed to measles will need to show proof of vaccination or immunity (confirmed by a lab test) to determine isolation requirements. Those who cannot provide proof of vaccination or immunity to measles will have to isolate for five to 21 days, depending on the scenario, and cannot participate in the Games. Anyone with a measles infection must isolate regardless of their vaccination status. These measures are essential to ensure the well-being of everyone involved in the Games.

We appreciate your cooperation in disseminating this information to your teams. Your support is vital in making the 2025 Canada Games a safe and successful event for all. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Fitzgerald', is positioned below the word 'Sincerely,'.

DR. JANICE FITZGERALD, MD, MPH
Chief Medical Officer of Health