

ONTARIO REGION UPDATE



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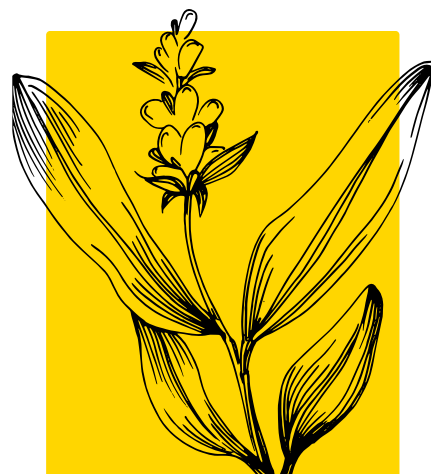
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Measles Outbreaks in Ontario

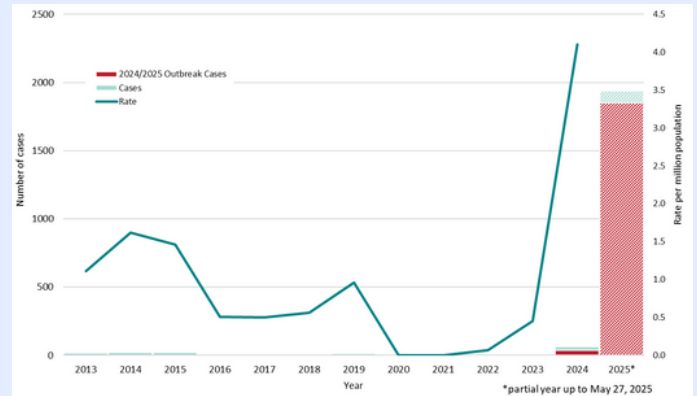
Measles is a highly contagious virus, and it is very important to slow its spread. The following sections outline current information about measles to help people stay safe and informed.

Ontario

Ontario is part of [a multi-region outbreak](#) of measles. Between October 2024 and May 2025, there were more than 1,800 confirmed cases of measles. Most cases involved infants and children who were not immunized. This means measles is now circulating within Canada, not just brought in from outside travel.

Due to this outbreak, some regions have expanded vaccine eligibility to help boost local community immunity against measles. Please contact your public health unit or healthcare provider for more information.

Number of Measles Cases and Incidence Rate per Million
Population: Ontario, January 1, 2013 – May 27, 2025



Produced by: Public Health Ontario, "Measles in Ontario" enhanced epidemiological summary (May 29, 2025)

Tracking measles exposures

Public Health Ontario publishes locations where people may have been exposed to measles on their website. You can find these locations and information about what to do if you have been exposed on this page: [Measles Exposures in Ontario](#).

Care is taken to not identify any individuals; Public Health Ontario only provides the addresses, dates, and times of possible exposures so people can determine their next steps. They also include the day you should monitor for symptoms until. This is especially important for people who do not have immunity to measles, as their healthcare provider may recommend [preventative care if they have been exposed](#).

Exposure locations are updated twice a week, but **your local public health unit will have the most up-to-date information** and health guidance for your region. **Please contact them or check their website for local measles updates.**

Measles recap

Early measles symptoms often look like those of other respiratory infections. It can take up to 21 days to develop symptoms after being infected, but [you can spread the virus from four days before](#) the tell-tale rash appears. This means that someone can have measles and/or spread it to others without knowing for some time.



While most people recover from measles, the virus poses a significant health risk to [those without immunity, like young children](#). Being fully vaccinated is still the best protection against measles, and it reduces the chances of infecting others who cannot fight it on their own.

Measles Activity in Canada

Measles outbreaks are happening in multiple provinces. In March 2025, [the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada made a statement about the growing concern of measles](#). There has been an increase in measles cases across Canada, and vaccination rates are lower than what is needed for health protection. These new cases come amidst a [global rise in measles activity](#) in recent years.

The Chief Public Health Officer **strongly advises all eligible individuals to get vaccinated against measles**, and double check vaccination status before travelling. Other key takeaways include:

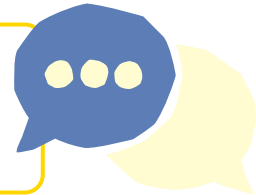
- More reported cases of measles in the first two months of 2025 than in all of 2024.
- Many unimmunized children were exposed to the virus in community settings.
- Several cases required hospitalization, including some cases that required the intensive care unit.



Communicating About Respiratory Infections

Sometimes it can be tough to find new ways to communicate. If you are looking for materials to help with conversations about respiratory infections, there are a number of resources on the Public Health section and Vaccines section of the OneHealth.ca/on/Home/Ontario. Some useful resources include:

- Poster: Myths vs facts about the MMR vaccine – [Image](#) / [PDF](#)
- Graphic: Health travel checklist – [Image](#)
- Text for social media: Promoting routine vaccinations – [Word file](#)



Help is Here Whenever You Need It

Support is available 24/7 for all First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples. Please find a list of mental health helplines below that are able to provide culturally relevant support. To find more services and resources, [click here to go to the national Indigenous mental health page](#).



Hope for Wellness Helpline

Phone: 1-855-242-3310

Online chat: www.hopeforwellness.ca

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Support Line

Phone: 1-844-413-6649

Indian Residential Schools Crisis Line

Phone: 1-866-925-4419

Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Services

Phone: 9-8-8 (call or text)



Free Naloxone Kits and Training

The Ontario College of Pharmacists is offering free naloxone kits to status card holders. Individuals can now order nasal naloxone kits online through [GetNaloxone.ca](https://getnaloxone.ca) using the following steps. Please note all naloxone kit orders must include a minimum of four items.

1. Visit <https://getnaloxone.ca>.
2. Fill in your personal information, including Indigenous Services Canada status card number.
3. Select your quantity (minimum of four), and click “add to cart”.
4. Enter your email and mailing address on the next page. Delivery is free.
5. Click “complete order”. You should receive an email confirming your order, indicating the order has been successful.

Your nearest pharmacy or community organization may also carry free naloxone kits. The Ministry of Ontario marks all major urban centres carrying free naloxone kits [on this map](#).

Individuals without a status card can also order free naloxone kits through NaloxAnon. Please visit <https://naloxanon.ca>.

What is naloxone

Naloxone is a fast-acting medication used to temporarily reverse the effects of [opioid overdoses](#). It can be used when there are opioids such as fentanyl, heroin, or codeine in a person’s system. Naloxone is safe for all ages. The nasal spray is easy to use, and it does not create dependence.

NaloxMore information about naloxone can be found on Canada’s [Naloxone: Save a Life fact sheet](#).



How to provide support in opioid overdoses

If you receive your naloxone kit in-person, the pharmacist can provide a review of your kit and how to properly administer the nasal spray. Some organizations also provide free online training with registration. These include:

- Workplace Safety & Prevention Services – [Naloxone awareness](#)
- St. John Ambulance – [Opioid poisoning response](#)
- Centre for Addiction and Mental Health – [Opioid overdose response](#)

Other key steps to **providing support in the event of an opioid overdose**:

- [Learn to recognize the signs](#) of an overdose.
- Keep your naloxone kit with you.
- Get comfortable with using naloxone. Training courses can help you practice.
- Stay and call for help. Contacting your local emergency services or nursing station can make the difference.
- Learn about the [Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act](#). It protects individuals from simple drug possession charges.

Rabies Risks in Northern Ontario



Rabies is a viral disease which can be carried by wildlife, such as bats, foxes, raccoons, and skunks. It can also be transmitted to other animals like dogs. Rabies is spread through an infected animal's saliva, primarily through bites. While uncommon, it is deadly to humans without quick medical care.

Over the last several months, cases of rabid foxes have been reported in Ontario's far north. Rabies circulates in wildlife, and any fur-bearing animal that spends unsupervised time outside may be at risk of rabies exposure (including dogs). Bats are also potential carriers of the virus. Detailed information about rabies can be found in this [rabies fact sheet](#) from Inspection Canada.

Public health guidance

- If you are bitten by a fur-bearing wild animal or dog, immediately wash the wound with soap and seek medical attention. This is especially important if there is increased rabies risk in your region. Preventive rabies treatment is available, but must be received quickly.
- Confine any dog that bites a human and observe them for 10 days for signs of rabies.
- If you have direct skin contact with a bat, seek medical attention immediately – even if there is no visible bite or scratch. Bat bites can go unnoticed but they carry a high risk.
- Avoid stray dogs or wildlife with unusual behaviours.
- Your local environmental public health officer can offer guidance on animal control strategies to consider for your community such as by-laws or policies on animal guardianship. This may include rabies vaccination of pets (if possible), or keeping dogs leashed when they are outside.
- Share rabies awareness resources within your community. This helps everyone stay vigilant, take precautions against bites, and know what to do if they have contact with a bat or are bitten by a fur-bearing animal.

Awareness resources

- Poster: Uapikunuu learns about rabies – [Image](#) / [PDF](#)
Produced by: Weeneebayko Area Health Authority, Ontario, Newfoundland & Labrador
- Social media graphics: How to protect against rabies – [ZIP file](#) (automatically downloads)
Produced by: Ontario Animal Health Network
- Social media graphics: Dog bite safety – [ZIP file](#) (automatically downloads)
- Infographic: Bats and rabies in Canada – [Image](#) / [PDF](#)

Emergency Management: Communications & Contacts

Flooding continues to impact communities as wildfire season gets underway. The following is a brief overview of existing contacts, funding, and communication resources that may be helpful for emergency management.

Key contacts

Sunil Bajaj | Director, ISC Ontario Region

- Email: sunil.bajaj@sac-isc.gc.ca
- Contact for questions related to emergency management

Emergency Management Central Inbox | ISC Ontario Region

- Email: emergencyon-urgenceon@sac-isc.gc.ca
- Contact for questions about emergency management-related funding and projects

Non-insured Health Benefits Contact List | ISC Ontario Region

- PDF: [NIHB Ontario Contacts](#)



Funding streams



Applications are open for fiscal year 2025 to 2026. Learn more about each funding stream using the links below.

[Emergency Management Non-Structural Mitigation and Preparedness](#)

- Proposals will be considered until March 31, 2026 or until all funds are spent.

[Emergency Management FireSmart Program](#)

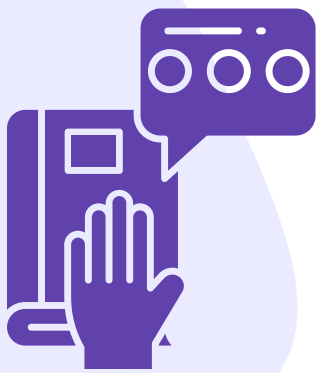
- Proposals will be considered until March 31, 2026 or until all funds are spent.

[Emergency Management Assistance Program](#)

- No deadline for requests related to disaster recovery, evacuation costs, and/or emergency planning.

Communications resources

- Poster: Emergency evacuation information for Ontario – [PDF](#)
- Multi-media: Emergency Preparedness, Canadian Red Cross – [Website](#)
 - Example: “Grab and go” checklist for Type 2 diabetics – [PDF En](#) / [PDF Ojibwe](#)
- Infographic: Protect your indoor air – [PDF](#)



New Minister Sworn In

Mandy Gull-Masty was sworn in as the new Minister of Indigenous Services Canada on May 13, 2025. Minister Gull-Masty is the elected Member of Parliament for the Abitibi-Baie-James-Nunavik-Eeyou riding. She previously served as Grand Chief of the Grand Council of the Crees/Cree Nation Government from 2021 to 2025.



Promoting Online Safety & Education

From phishing and fraud, to misinformation and disinformation, there are a lot of ways online safety can be compromised. It can also be difficult to talk about online safety, as everyone has a different level of knowledge, experience, and comfort with the online space. The resources below may be helpful when talking about online safety and education with your community.

Text: **Digital literacy advice from Elections Canada** – [Website](#)

- Includes tips on how to spot misinformation, how to confirm information, the influence of AI, and purposeful misinformation (known as disinformation).

Text and poster: **The 7 red flags of phishing** – [Website](#) / [PDF](#)

- Poster is also available in [Ojibwe](#), [Cree](#), and [Inuktitut](#).

Multi-media: **CTRL-F, digital media literacy** – [Website](#)

- Provides a range of free educational materials about online safety, including resources on how to spot AI, building online research skills, and cybersecurity.
- Registration is required to download materials and access workshops.

