

Pembroke Regional Hospital

MEMO

To: All Staff and Physicians
From: Kirsten Johnson, Manager of Infection Control
Date: April 25, 2025
Subject: Measles Activity within Renfrew County

Today, the Renfrew County District Health Unit (RCDHU) issued a press release confirming measles activity within Renfrew County. As a result, we are sharing the following key reminders for all staff and physicians:

Symptom Recognition and Risk Assessment

- Patients presenting to the Emergency Department must be screened for measles symptoms, including fever, rash, malaise, cough, conjunctivitis, and runny nose.
- Consider risk factors such as potential exposure to a suspect or confirmed case, recent travel and the patient's vaccination status.

Laboratory Testing

- For suspected cases, please refer to the "Measles" policy on Policy Medical for guidance on appropriate laboratory testing.

Isolation and Infection Control

- Suspected measles patients must be asked to wear a surgical mask.
- Immediately isolate them in a negative pressure room and initiate airborne precautions. If a negative pressure room is unavailable, place the patient in a private room with the door closed, and initiate airborne precautions. Transfer the patient to a negative pressure room as soon as one becomes available.
- Staff must wear a fit-tested and seal-checked N95 respirator, gown, gloves, and eye protection when providing care.

Reporting

- Immediately notify the Renfrew County District Health Unit (RCDHU) and the PRH Infection Control Team of any suspected or confirmed measles cases.

Staff Guidelines

- Only staff who are immune to measles should care for suspected or confirmed cases.
- Healthcare workers unsure of their immune status should contact the Occupational Health and Safety Team at ext. 7202 or 8200.
- Healthcare workers who are immunocompromised or pregnant should not care for suspected measles cases.
- Staff and physicians who are not up-to-date on their N95 mask fit test must contact the Occupational Health and Safety Team at ext. 7202 or 8200 to arrange an appointment. Mask fit testing is available Monday-Friday between 08:00 and 16:00.
- Complete a point-of-care risk assessment prior to all patient interactions. In addition to following the required precautions, select additional personal protective equipment (PPE) as indicated by your risk assessment.
- Ensure that the infection control risk is clearly communicated to all staff by posting appropriate precaution signage and providing clear information during care transitions.

For more detailed information, please refer to the “Measles” policy on Policy Medical. If you have any questions, contact the Infection Prevention and Control Team at ext. 7106 or the Occupational Health and Safety Team at ext. 7202/8200.