

March 11, 2025

TO: Saskatchewan Health Authority
Indigenous Services Canada- SK Region
Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals
Drug Plan and Extended Benefits Branch
College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan

Northern Intertribal Health Authority
Saskatchewan Medical Association
College of Registered Nurses of Saskatchewan
HealthLine

Re: Measles-Mumps-Rubella (MMR) Immunization Recommendations

Dear Colleagues;

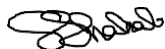
Global measles outbreaks are increasing because of international travel and declining measles coverage rates. Unimmunized individuals are at high risk of infection when exposed. Measles spreads easily to those not up to date with measles vaccine and those who are most vulnerable and unable to be vaccinated (e.g., young infants and immunocompromised people). Those at highest risk for complications are children younger than 5 years of age.

Recommendations

1. The best protection children have against measles is by getting their measles-containing vaccines on time (e.g., dose #1 at 12 months old and dose #2 at 18 months old). **Achieving the targeted Canadian measles coverage rate of 95% by 2 years of age is a top priority for Saskatchewan in 2025.**
2. Infants 6-11 months old who are travelling anywhere within Canada **DO NOT** require a measles (MMR) vaccine dose, even though sporadic cases and small clusters are periodically reported in the media and managed by local public health authorities.
3. Exceptions may apply if infants and toddlers are travelling to specific areas in Canada or the US where there is a current outbreak **AND** the family will be staying with an unvaccinated family or community. Infants may receive an early MMR at 6-11 months old and toddlers may receive their second MMRV dose if younger than 18 months old **before travelling** on a case-by-case basis and after discussion with an MHO.
4. Please support your patients to keep up to date with routine immunizations prior to travelling outside Canada, including [MMR vaccine](#). A pre-travel consultation will ensure travel vaccines and routine vaccines, including measles are up to date. Refer to the [Saskatchewan Immunization Manual Chapter 5](#) Appendix 5.2 *Publicly Funded MMR Vaccine Eligibility* for details.
5. It is strongly recommended that children and eligible adults who are travelling abroad check their immunization records at [MySaskHealth Record](#) and contact public health as needed to receive publicly-funded MMR vaccine.

Your cooperation with promoting measles vaccination is important and appreciated.

Sincerely,



Dr. Saqib Shahab
Chief Medical Health Officer

