

March 20, 2025

RE: Measles Awareness and Prevention

Dear Nîkihikomâwak/Ohpikinahawasiwahk (Parents/Caregivers),

At Maskwacîs Education Schools Commission (MESC), we prioritize the health and well-being of our students, staff, families, and Maskwacîsahk. Currently, there are no confirmed cases in Maskwacîs, however, there are confirmed cases in Alberta. With spring break approaching, we want to ensure everyone is informed and safe.

What You Need to Know

Measles is highly contagious and spreads through the air. Symptoms include fever, cough, runny nose, red eyes, and a red, blotchy rash. It can lead to serious complications, especially for young children, pregnant individuals, and those with weakened immune systems.

How You Can Protect Your Child

Maskwacîs Health Services is urging parents to get their children up to date on their immunizations. Individuals require two doses of the vaccine to be considered fully protected. Call 780-585-2266 to book an appointment for immunizations at Maskwacîs Community Health.

The measles vaccine is also offered in the School Immunization Program. Two paper consents have been sent home with students in grades 6-12 in the 2024-2025 school year. If your child has lost their form or if you did not receive one you may email schools@mymhs.ca, text 780-362-2139, or get a consent form at the medical reception beside the Roots and Berries Pharmacy.

Parents and guardians can also check that their child has received their vaccinations by calling Health Link at 811 or by contacting their <u>local public health or community health</u> <u>center</u>. Individuals who are 14 years of age and older can check their <u>My Health Record</u> <u>account</u> immunization record.

Spring Break Travel Advisory

If you are traveling or attending upcoming hockey tournaments, take extra precautions by verifying vaccination status, practicing good hygiene, and being aware of symptoms. If you or your child develop symptoms after travel, please stay home and call Health Link at 811 before visiting a healthcare facility.



Additional Resources:

- General Measles Information in Alberta: Learn More
- Immunization Information: Immunization
- Measles FAQs: <u>Q & A</u>

Thank you for your continued support and by working together we will keep our children safe.

Ay hay, ekosi pitama,

Tracy Swampy-Sylvester Superintendent, Maskwacis Education Schools Commission