



## Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care

### Public Health

300 Carlton Street

Winnipeg, Manitoba Canada R3B 3M9

February 12, 2026

### **RE: Eligibility Expansion for MMR vaccine for Infants 6 to Under 12 Months of Age**

Dear Health Care Provider,

Since January 2026, measles case numbers have accelerated and spread throughout Manitoba.

#### **Manitoba Ag Days**

- Preliminary information from ongoing case investigations indicates that significant measles transmission occurred during Manitoba Ag Days, which took place January 20 to 22, 2026 in Brandon.
- At this time, over 35 measles cases that may have acquired their infection during the event have been identified across Manitoba along with many new public exposure locations. Investigations are ongoing.
- Due to the large number of attendees and exhibitors from across Manitoba and other provinces and the United States of America, more measles cases will likely be identified in the coming weeks, but the true number may be unknown due to underreporting.

#### **Expanded Vaccine Eligibility**

- In response, effective February 12, 2026, Manitoba Public Health is expanding measles outbreak eligibility criteria to include infants aged 6 months to under 12 months who reside in or who travel regularly to AND have close contacts with residents in Prairie Mountain Health (PMH). This is in addition to the existing measles outbreak eligibility criteria for Southern Health-Santé Sud (SH-SS) or Interlake Eastern (IERHA).
- Note that only the MMR vaccine can be administered as the early dose since the *measles, mumps, rubella and varicella* (MMRV) vaccine is not recommended for use in infants less than 12 months of age. Additionally, infants receiving an early dose of MMR should still receive 2 doses of MMRV after their first birthday (and at least 4 weeks after the previous dose of measles-containing vaccine) to ensure long lasting immunity.
- Vaccine eligibility can be found at <https://www.manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/vaccineeligibility.html>.

#### **Further Information**

- The Measles Quick Reference Guide provides information on when to consider measles, testing recommendations, infection prevention and control guidance, public health

notification requirements, post-exposure prophylaxis recommendations and much more:  
<https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/diseases/docs/measles-quick-reference-guide.pdf>.

- The number of cases is updated on the measles website weekly each Friday:  
<https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/diseases/measles.html#update>.
- Public exposures are posted as they are identified:  
<https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/diseases/measles-exposures.html>.
- There were minor revisions to the Measles Disease Management Protocol in January 2026: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/protocol/measles.pdf>.

Please share this information with all colleagues at your facility/clinic.

Sincerely,

*“Original Signed by”*

Richard Baydack, PhD  
Executive Director  
Communicable Disease Prevention and Control

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