

ATTENTION PARENTS

Important information on measles

An epidemic of measles has been spreading in Québec since April 2011. **More than 750 cases have been reported to date, of which two-thirds have been in schools.** This is the largest measles outbreak in the Americas since 2002.

Measles is a severe and highly contagious disease that is caught by breathing the same air as an infected person. Measles causes high fever, runny nose, red and watery eyes, cough, and red spots on the body.

Measles can cause major complications, such as an infection of the lungs (pneumonia) or the brain (encephalitis).

Vaccination campaign

Vaccination remains the most effective protection against measles. This is why the health network, in cooperation with the school network, is launching a vaccination campaign in all schools in Québec.

The goal is to vaccinate students and staff who have not received all the necessary doses of vaccine or who do not have proof of vaccination (vaccination record or other). Allowing for exceptions, vaccination will begin in schools as of January 2012.

Currently, not enough people have been vaccinated to prevent measles from spreading. People cannot rely on others having been vaccinated to avoid catching the disease themselves. At least one child in ten in Québec is at risk of catching measles and then transmitting it to other students, babies too young to be vaccinated, pregnant women, or people who cannot be vaccinated because of certain medical conditions.

Are your child's vaccinations up to date?

Find your child's vaccination record. It will be needed during the campaign.

If your child has been vaccinated, you will find one of the following vaccine names in your vaccination record: M-M-R, M-M-R II, Priorix or Priorix-Tetra, Trivirix, Attenuvax, Rimevax, Rubeovax, Lirugen, M-R Vax, anti-rougeoleux vaccine.

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No news is good news!

Only people who have not been adequately vaccinated or who do not have sufficient proof of vaccination are being contacted. If your child falls into this category, you will be sent a consent form or a request for proof of vaccination. Vaccination will be offered at school.

Students 14 years of age and older give consent themselves.

In case of an outbreak

If there is a case of measles at school, students and staff who are not protected may be temporarily excluded from school.

If your child comes down with the measles, keep him at home and call Info Santé 8-1-1.

For more information about measles, the vaccine, and the campaign in schools, visit this website www.msss.gouv.qc.ca/rougeole, or call Info Santé by dialling 8-1-1.

The Director of Public Health,



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