



Tsi Tehshakotitsén:tha Kateri Memorial Hospital Centre

Established 1905

KMHC takes measures to address Measles outbreak

For immediate release

(Kahnawake – 6, Enniskó:wa/March 2024) Tehsakotitsén:tha Kateri Memorial Hospital Centre (KMHC) is advising the community and clients that, due to a confirmed outbreak of measles in Montreal and the greater Montreal-area, KMHC is proactively putting measures in place to reduce the risk and protect our vulnerable community members. The outbreak has resulted in a great deal of media coverage due to the **very serious nature of disease**, and who it affects.

Measles is a **highly contagious** airborne disease. An infected person can spread the disease by breathing, speaking, coughing and sneezing. Measles can cause complications in vulnerable patients, such as:

- ear/lung infection
- convulsion
- brain damage
- miscarriage
- death

Measles causes the following symptoms:

- Fever of 38.3° C (101° F) or greater; AND
- Cough, nasal congestion or red runny eyes; AND
- Rash

Vulnerable community members include:

- **Children less than one (1) year of age**
- **Pregnant women**
- **Immunocompromised (weakened immune system due to illness or medication)**

In order to protect our vulnerable population, KMHC has put into place several measures, such as:

- All people entering KMHC will be asked if you have a fever, a cough and a rash by security personnel
- All people entering the building are required to wear a mask and perform hand hygiene
- Any visitors with these symptoms should not come to visit at this time
- If you have symptoms, you will be asked to call to book an appointment. When you arrive, you will be asked to enter via a separate entrance and greeted by a nurse wearing protective gear (mask, gown, face shield) who will hand you a mask and lead you to a

designated isolation room. To protect others, you will be asked to remain in the room with the door closed throughout your visit. To protect the healthcare providers, they will be wearing protective gear throughout the evaluation.

- A letter will be sent to all families of children attending the local daycares and schools with instructions to follow if there are cases in the daycare or school

The following people are considered protected against measles and do not need the vaccine:

- those who have already had measles
- those born before 1970
- those born between 1970 and 1979 and who received one (1) dose of vaccine after one (1) year of age
- those born in or after 1980 and who received two (2) doses of vaccine after one (1) year of age.

It is highly recommended that people who do not meet these criteria should receive the vaccine to be protected against the disease. Please check your vaccination records to be sure you have received two (2) doses.

If you have any questions or wish to be vaccinated, please contact the Kateri Memorial Hospital Centre Community Health Unit at (450) 638-3930 ext. 2344.

-30-

Media contact:

Dawn Montour, Manager of Outpatient Care & Public Health

Kateri Memorial Hospital Centre

450-638-3930 ext. 2213 or dawn.montour.kahnawake@ssss.gouv.qc.ca