

Public Health

April 12, 2017

RE: Exposure to Measles at Hebbville Academy

Dear parents/guardians and staff of Hebbville Academy,

Public Health investigates many communicable diseases to prevent spread and protect the health of the public. We have determined that an individual with a confirmed case of **measles** was present at Hebbville Academy. We would expect any individuals exposed to develop symptoms between April 13 and May 3, 2017.

Symptoms of measles include

- Fever
- A red blotchy rash on the face, which spreads down the body
- Cough, runny nose, red eyes
- Small white spots may also show up inside the mouth and throat

Measles is a viral illness and most people fully recover within two to three weeks. However, measles can have serious complications, which are more likely in infants, pregnant women and those with weakened immune systems.

The best protection against measles is vaccination. In Nova Scotia, every person born after 1970 should receive two doses of the measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine after their first birthday.

Vaccination clinic at Hebbville Academy – April 13

Public Health will be onsite at Hebbville Academy on April 13 to provide vaccination to **any students and staff** whose MMR vaccination is not up to date:

- The clinic will run from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
- Public Health will work with students and families to determine immunization status. Parents/guardians are encouraged to look into their records.
- For children who received immunizations in Lunenburg or Queens Counties, please call 1-844-515-0675 and follow the voice prompts.
- Parental/guardian consent is required to vaccinate children. The consent form will be available through the school office tomorrow. It can be [viewed here](#) (feel free to download, print and sign).
- If you have any questions, please call Public Health at 1-844-856-3677.

If you or someone you know has the symptoms listed above, even if they have been vaccinated, you should:

- Call Public Health: 1-844-856-3677
- Call 811 for advice from a registered nurse. They will advise on next steps.
- If you need to see a healthcare provider for assessment, such as your family doctor, call ahead to make sure they are prepared to see you. Measles is highly contagious and healthcare providers need to take special precautions to protect other patients from being exposed.

Please find a fact sheet attached about measles for further information. **If you have further questions, please call 1-844-856-3677.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ryan Sommers".

Dr. Ryan Sommers

Medical Officer of Health, East Hants, Colchester, Cumberland and Pictou