

Notice to population

For immediate release

Invitation to be vigilant and vaccinated against measles

Gaspé, March 4th 2024 – In recent weeks, some regions of the province have reported cases of measles. At present, there are no known cases in Gaspésie and the Magdalen Islands. The Direction régionale de santé publique Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine strongly recommends that unvaccinated people get vaccinated against measles.

Measles is a highly contagious disease that can be serious, especially for young children, pregnant women and people with weak immune systems. Vaccination remains the best way to protect yourself against this disease, as two (2) doses provide 95% protection. If you'd like to make sure you're vaccinated, you can check your vaccination record, or call 1 877 725-2515. If you'd like to get the measles vaccine, we invite you to make an appointment at one of the local service points, which are available at several locations in the region, at clicsanté.ca or by calling 1 877 725-2515. The vaccine is offered for free and provides immunity within 2 to 3 weeks. Children generally receive this vaccine between 12 and 18 months of age. An important fact to know is that people born before 1970 are considered protected, even without vaccination.

We recommend paying close attention to the onset of symptoms, especially for people who have not been vaccinated against measles. The main symptoms of the disease are high fever, cough, runny nose, red eyes and general malaise, followed by rashes on the face and body. Anyone showing symptoms compatible with measles should limit contact with others and consult a physician. It is important to notify the medical clinic or emergency personnel of symptoms before or upon arrival, so that the necessary precautions can be taken.

For more information on measles, please consult the link below:

<https://www.quebec.ca/en/health/health-issues/a-z/measles>

Find out more about local service points in Gaspésie and the Magdalen Islands :

<https://www.cisss-gaspesie.gouv.qc.ca/soins-et-services/points-de-service/>

<https://www.cisssdesiles.com/vaccination-et-depistage/>

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