

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

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Increased Risk of Measles for those who travel

Northwestern Health Unit is reminding people to get immunized before they travel.

Sandra Krikke, Acting Manager, Infectious Diseases says “cases of measles have been on the rise globally and we’ve seen an increase in travel-related cases being reported in other areas of Ontario as well as Minnesota.”

Although there are no confirmed cases in our region, with an increase of people travelling, there is a real risk that measles or other diseases could be brought back to our area.

Measles is a serious disease that spreads very easily from person to person. Ninety percent of unprotected people will get sick after being exposed to the virus. Measles symptoms include fever, cough, eye infections and upper respiratory infections. It can lead to pneumonia, blindness, and encephalitis.

Please check with your local Northwestern Health Unit or health care provider to ensure you are up to date with your routine immunizations. People 6 months of age and up may be eligible for an additional dose of measles containing vaccine if they are travelling internationally.

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