



VANCOUVER  
BOARD OF  
PARKS AND  
RECREATION

February 27, 2019

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

FROM : Malcolm Bromley  
General Manager, Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT : **Measles Outbreak & Community Centre Precautions**

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Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to share some of the information that has been provided by Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) about the current measles outbreak in Vancouver, and to also inform you of the precautions being taken at the four Park Board community centres located closest to the impacted schools.

This outbreak has caused understandable concern in the community at large and amongst parents in particular. Measles is a highly contagious disease that spreads through the air. Close contact is not required as the virus can survive for up to two hours in closed spaces (such as washrooms). It is a serious illness with no specific treatment, but most people recover within a week or two.

To date, eight cases of measles have been identified in children at Jules-Verne, Rose-des-Vents, and Anne-Hebert schools in east Vancouver. The first two are located within three kilometres of Hillcrest and Sunset community centres, and the third is located within two kilometres of Champlain Heights and Killarney community centres.

VCH advises that while there is no evidence of measles exposure at other schools, or transmission into the wider community, vaccination is recommended for anyone who has not had measles or who is unsure of their immunization history. The measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine is available free of charge at VCH public health units. Children routinely receive it at 12 months of age, followed by a second dose before six years of age. Most people in Canada are protected against infection through MMR immunization; two doses are 99% effective at preventing measles.

As a precautionary measure, Park Board staff have ensured that the Community Centre Associations running the recreation and childcare programs at the four centres noted above are aware of VCH's recommendations so that they can share this information with concerned parents. Community centre staff have also been directed to be extra diligent in cleaning the facilities.

More information on symptoms, recommendations, and resources is available on the [VCH Public Health website](#).

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Malcolm Bromley'.

Malcolm Bromley  
General Manager - Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

/dw/clc

Copy to: PB Senior Leadership Team, PB Recreation Leadership Team, PB Communications