

February 22 2019

Re: Measles at Langara College

Dear Students, Faculty, and Administration,

There has been a confirmed case of Measles with possible exposure on Langara College Campus at the Tech Building on February 15th, 2019, from 0900-1630.

Students and staff who may have been exposed have been contacted by Vancouver Coastal Health Communicable Disease Control. If you have not been contacted and believe you may have been exposed, please contact Vancouver Coastal Health Communicable Disease Control.

Measles is a highly contagious disease that spreads through the air. It starts with fever, cough, runny nose, and red, watery eyes. These symptoms **develop between 7 to 21 days after a person is exposed.** A characteristic rash then develops, beginning on the face and spreading down the body. **Measles can be a serious illness with permanent complications.**

The 21 day incubation period for measles following this exposure will end March 9th. **If you think you are exhibiting the symptoms listed above, we are asking you to phone public health** at 604-675-3900 to speak with a nurse. This will allow us to determine if measles continues to circulate at Langara College.

Most people in Canada are protected through immunization with the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine. Children receive MMR at 12 months of age followed by a second dose before 6 years of age. **Two doses of MMR vaccine are 99% effective at preventing measles.** MMR vaccine is available through your local public health unit or at the Urgent Primary Care Centre. Your local pharmacy and family doctor may also have the vaccine available.

To protect you and your family, we recommend the following:

- If you were born on or after January 1st, 1970 and have not had two doses of measles vaccine, you should receive a dose of MMR vaccine now.
- If you were born on or after January 1st, 1970 and are unsure of your immunization history and unable to locate your records, we recommend that you get a dose of MMR vaccine.
- If you were born before 1970, or have had measles, you are most likely immune. However, if you believe that you did not have measles infection, it is safe to receive a dose of vaccine
- **If you develop the symptoms of measles, stay at home.** Please call your doctor and say you think you may have measles. This will allow your doctor to take precautions to protect other patients. Please call our Public Health Team at 604-675-3900 for advice and to report any illness.

If it is determined that measles is circulating at Langara College, students and staff without documented immunity will be required to stay home from school until there is no longer a risk of measles at school. However, **we are not asking any students to stay home at this time.**

If you have any questions, you can call a Public Health nurse at your local Community Health Center or call our communicable disease control team at 604.675.3900, or toll free at 1-855-675-3900, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Althea Hayden
 Medical Health Officer
 Vancouver Coastal Health Authority
 Communicable Disease Control

City Centre Urgent Primary Care Centre 1290 Hornby Street, 604.416.1811					
Vancouver					
Evergreen 3425 Crowley Dr 604.872.2511	Raven Song 2450 Ontario St 604.709.6400	Robert and Lily Lee Family 1669 East Broadway 604.675.3980	Pacific Spirit 2110 West 43rd Ave 604.261.6366	South 6405 Knight St 604.321.6151	Three Bridges 1128 Hornby St 604.331.8903
Richmond 8100 Granville Ave 604.233.3150	Coastal Urban Central Com. Health 132 Esplanade West North Vancouver 604.983.6700	West Vancouver 2121 Marine Dr. West West Vancouver 604.904.6200	Coastal Rural – Sea Squamish 1140 Hunter Place 604.892.2293 or 1.877.892.2231	Whistler #202 - 4380 Lorimer Rd 604.932.3202	Pemberton # 403 -
Coastal Rural - Sunshine Coast Gibsons 821 Gibsons Way 604.984.5070	Sechelt 5571 Inlet Ave 604.885.5164	Pender Harbour 5066 Francis Peninsula Rd 604.883.2764	Powell River 5000 Joyce Ave 604.485.3310		
Central Coast					
Bella Bella Heiltsuk Health Centre 250.957.2308 ext 229	Bella Coola Public Health 250.799.5722	Bella Coola Nuxalk Health & Wellness 250.957.5441			