

Measles Epidemiological Summary, British Columbia 2019 year to date – February 27th

Measles is a highly contagious, acute viral illness preventable by measles vaccine. From 2013 through 2017, there were less than five confirmed cases of measles annually in British Columbia (BC). In 2018, nine cases of measles were reported; three of these cases were out of country residents visiting BC.

Measles in BC in 2019

As of February 27th, thirteen confirmed cases of measles have been reported in 2019. Two cases from January and one case from February were adults who acquired measles during travel to the Philippines, where a large measles outbreak is ongoing.¹

Nine cases were associated with three related schools. Three co-primary cases likely acquired their infection in Vietnam, and timing of illness onset is compatible with 5 secondary cases in students at the same schools. All children were between 10 and 14 years of age. One additional case occurred in an adult who had contact with one of the secondary cases.

One adult case occurred in an individual with no recent travel and no known contact with the school cluster. This led to exposure warnings in Vancouver, Richmond, Squamish, and Whistler between February 15th and 18th.² A separate potential exposure event occurred on February 11th and 12th at YVR airport when a non-BC resident arrived from the Philippines on transit to Northwest Territories.²

There have not been any confirmed cases under 10 years of age. No cases are linked to the measles outbreak in Washington State, with the epicentre in Clark County.³

Table 1: Confirmed cases of measles by age group, British Columbia, 2019 to February 27

Age Group	Number of Confirmed Cases
<1 year	0
1-9 years	0
10 to 19 years	8
20 to 29 years	3
30 to 39 years	1
40 to 49 years	1
50 years and older	0
Total	13

¹ For information on the measles outbreak in the Philippines:
<https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/health-safety/travel-health-notice/195>

² For exposure information from Vancouver Coastal Health:
<http://www.vch.ca/about-us/news/news-releases>

³ For information on the measles outbreak in Washington state:
<https://www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/IllnessandDisease/Measles/MeaslesOutbreak>

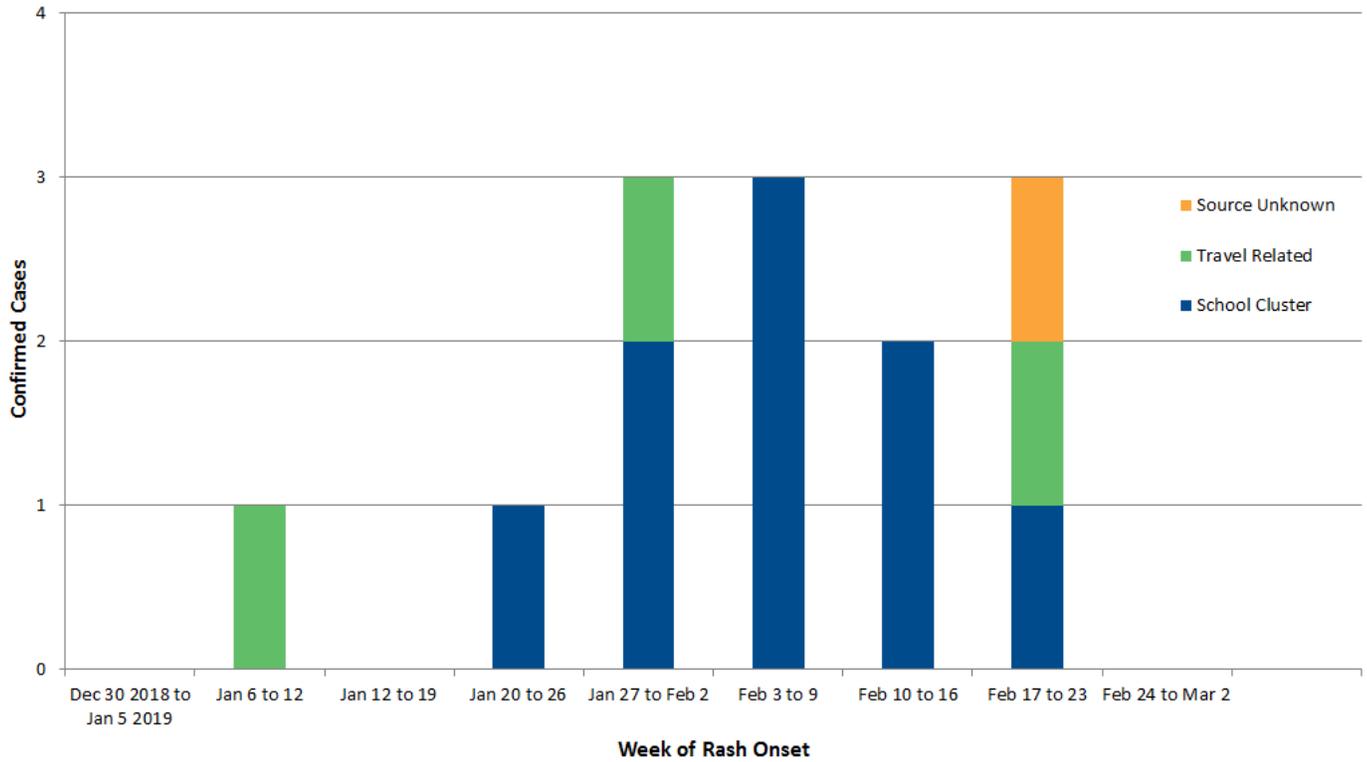


Figure 1: Confirmed cases of measles by epidemiological week, British Columbia, 2019 to February 27