

## COMMUNITY WELLBEING ADVISORY

**To:** Sioux Lookout area Chiefs and Health Directors

From: Dr. Lloyd Douglas, Public Health Physician, SLFNHA

**Date:** May 31, 2024

Re: Update on the Probable Measles Case in the Sioux Lookout area: The Case Was NOT Measles

## **Issue**

Following yesterday's media release by the Northwestern Health Unit (NWHU) about a probable case of measles in the Sioux Lookout area, and SLFNHA's Community Wellbeing Advisory regarding precaution measures, all laboratory results are NEGATIVE. The NWHU confirms that it was NOT measles.

Measles is a highly contagious viral disease and requires prompt action of probable cases to prevent its spread and protect the health of our people. This includes thorough contact tracing and confirmation of probable cases. Suspicion for measles was initially based on dates of travel through Toronto and the development of symptoms consistent with measles within a timeframe that made measles a possibility.

In accordance with the latest media release by the NWHU, all individuals who were recommended to isolate and monitor for possible measles symptoms are advised to discontinue those measures. Public health authorities will directly contact individuals who were known to have been exposed to inform them that the risk has been ruled out.

SLFNHA recommends that all eligible individuals should receive two doses of measles-containing vaccines according to the routine immunization schedule.

SLFNHA is closely monitoring the situation to protect the health of the community members we serve. We thank all community workers, healthcare providers, and community members for their support in preventing the transmission of measles and other respiratory infections.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Amanda Laverdure, Preventing Infectious Diseases Manager, <u>Amanda.Laverdure@slfnha.com</u> or Dr. Lloyd Douglas, Public Health Physician, <u>L.Douglas@slfnha.com</u>

cc. Sonia Isaac Mann, Chief Executive Officer and President SLFNHA Board of Directors
SLFNHA Chiefs Council on Health
Community Health Directors and Physicians
Sioux Lookout area Tribal Councils
Nishnawbe Aski Nation