

Toronto Public Health Response to the Ontario Measles Outbreak

Toronto Board of Health

June 3, 2025

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Vaccination led to measles elimination in Canada since 1998

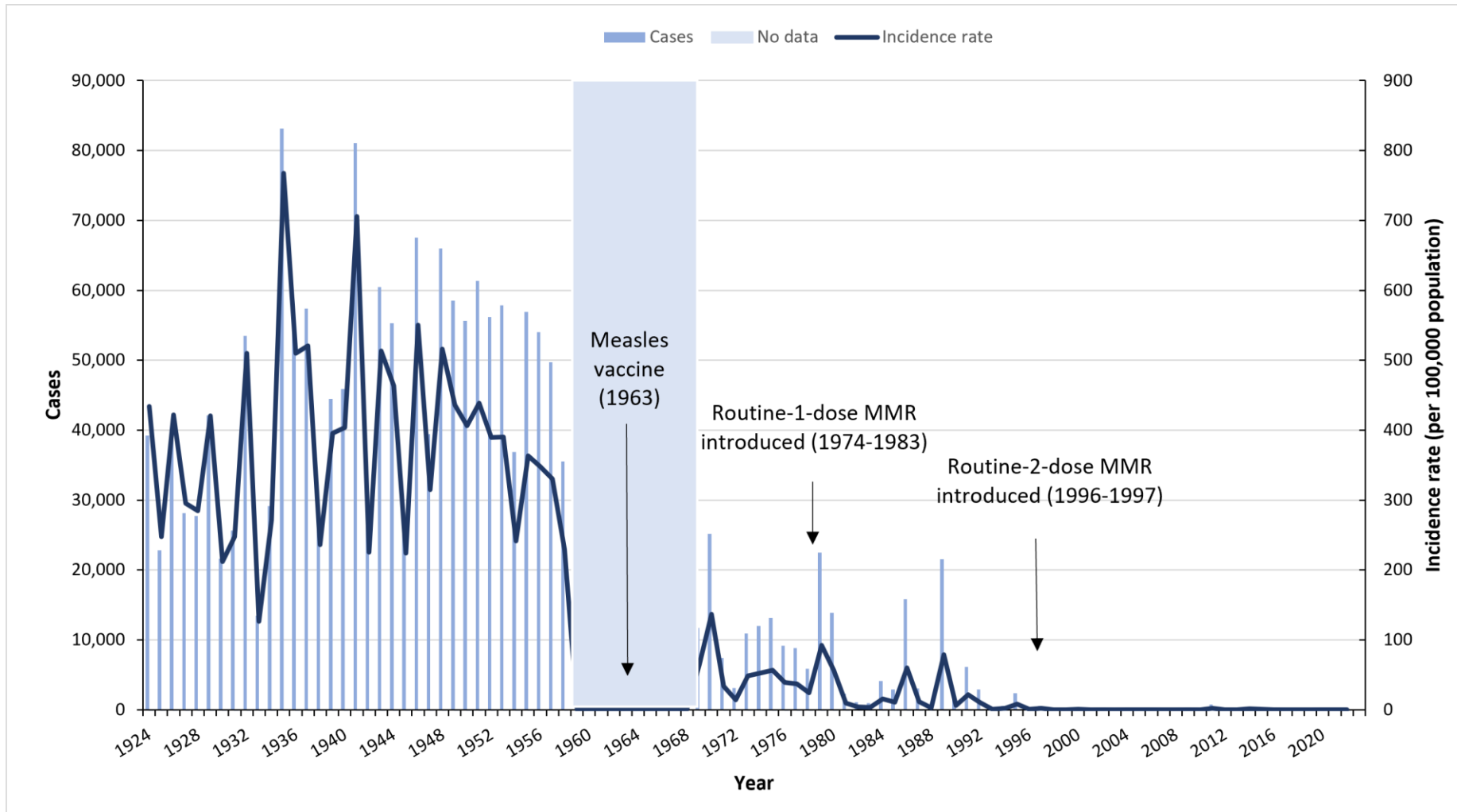
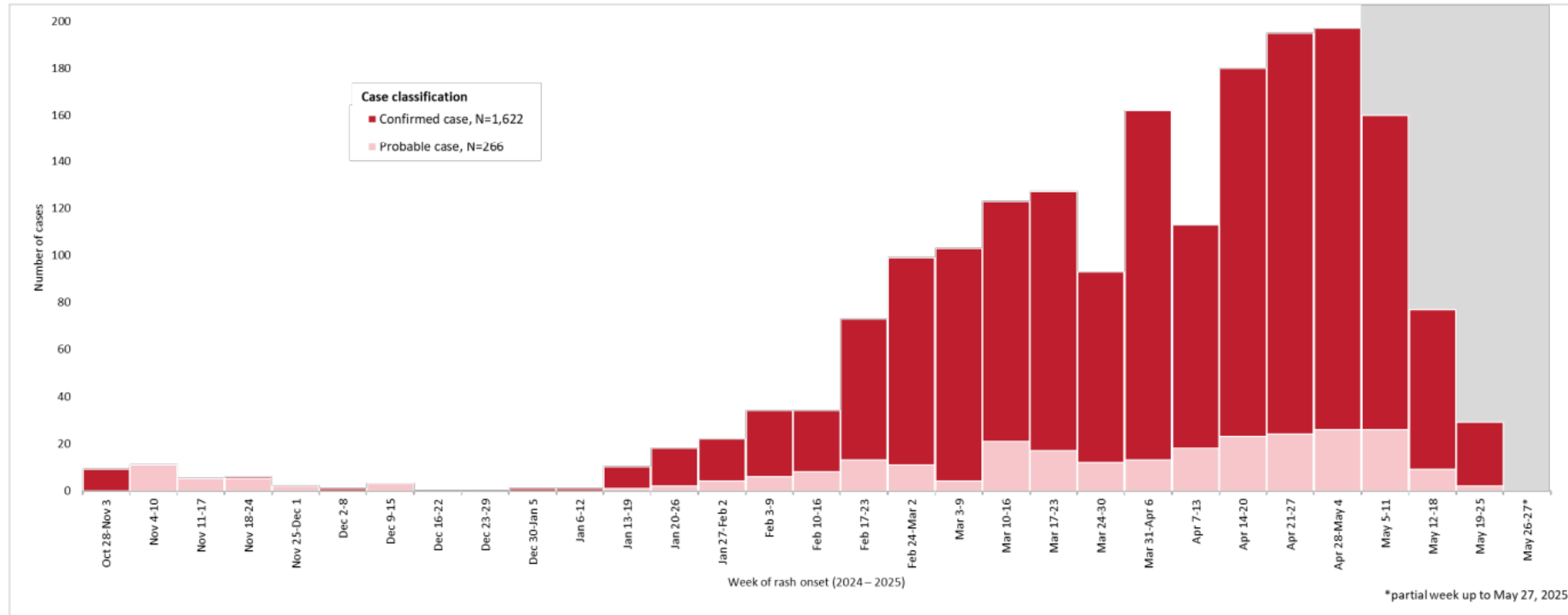


Figure: Number and incidence rates (per 100,000 population) of reported measles cases in Canada by year, 1924 to 2023

Current outbreak focused in Southwestern Ontario

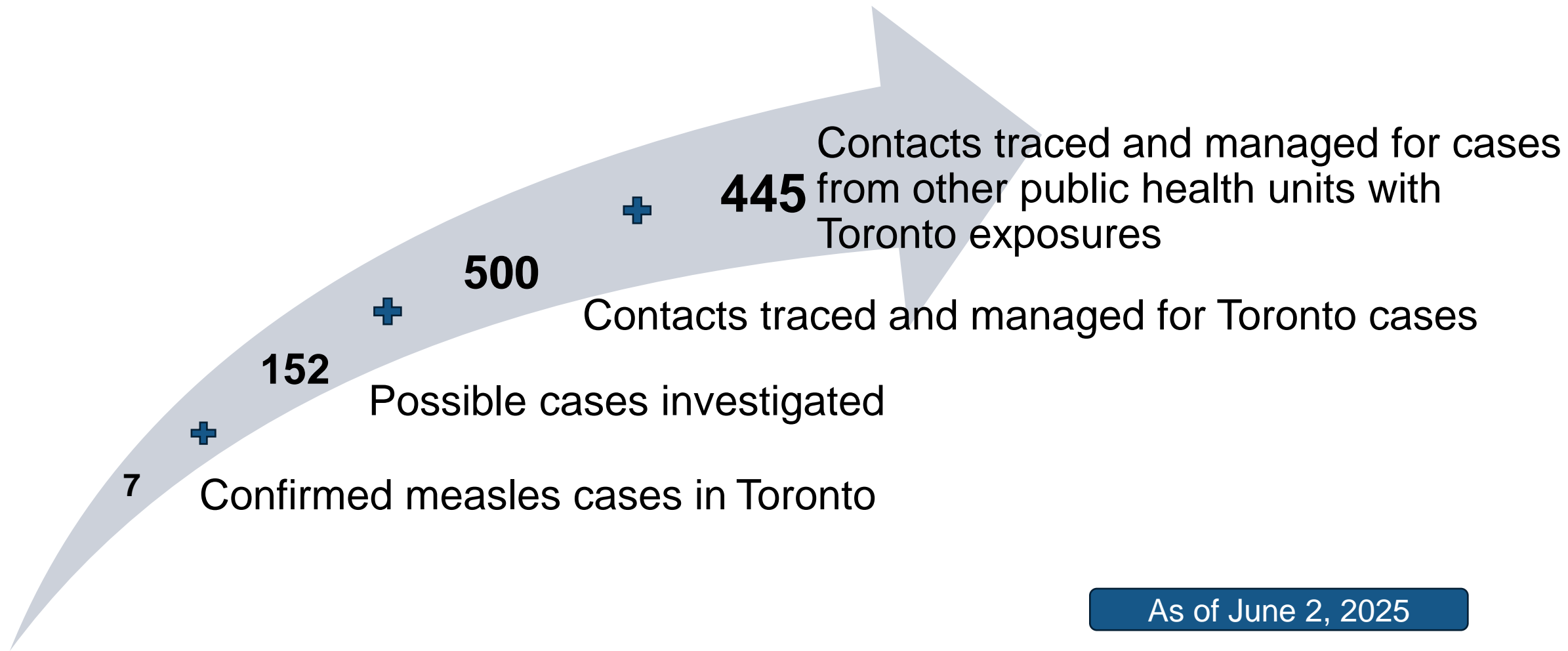
No outbreak measles cases detected in Toronto

Figure 1: Number of Measles Outbreak Cases by Week of Rash Onset and Case Classification: Ontario, October 28, 2024 – May 27, 2025



- As of May 27, 2025, **1,888** measles **cases** associated with the outbreak in Ontario.
- Most cases in this outbreak are occurring in people who have not been immunized
- In 2025, as of June 2, **7 measles cases** have been confirmed in Toronto.

Responding to measles requires action beyond confirmed cases



Measles exposures can cause exclusion from settings for unvaccinated individuals



TPH interventions aim to prevent local transmission



Promoting measles messaging & vaccination through Toronto Public Health (TPH) programs



Completed full Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA) assessments of the 2016 and 2008 birth cohorts



Sending communication to all students without complete measles vaccination records






Adding TPH vaccination clinic appointments for students as a secondary vaccination channel



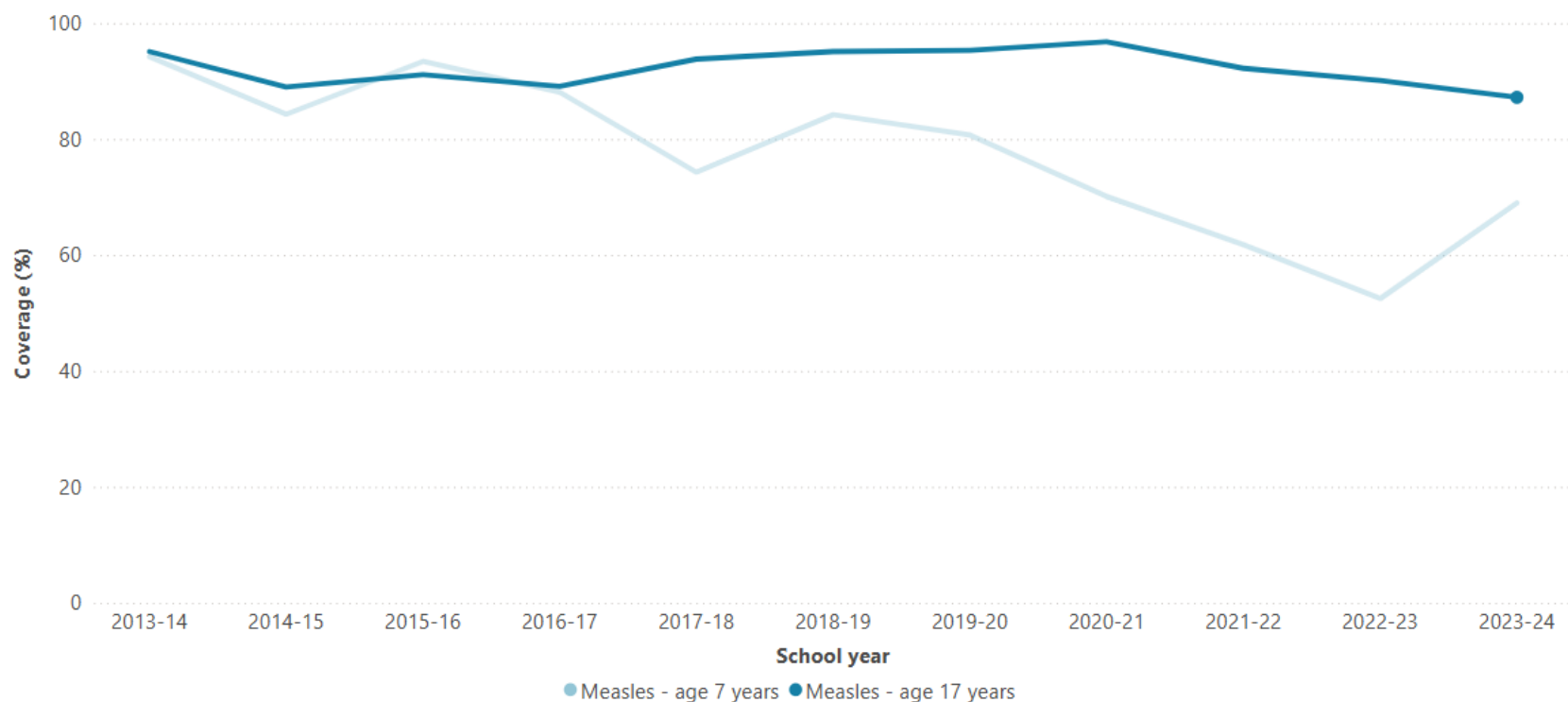
Collaborating with health care providers to promote vaccination through this primary channel

Measles vaccine recommendations for Toronto residents

Recommendations for Toronto Residents (Routine Schedule)		Recommendation if travelling or living in an area of high measles activity (includes SW Ontario)
Children	 First dose on or after 1st birthday	6 to 11 months (early extra dose)
	 Second dose at 4-6 years	Get 2nd dose early, before 4th birthday
Adults	 Adults born before 1970 – likely protected. Adults born in 1970 or later: 2 doses	Adults born before 1970 – 1 dose Adults born in 1970 or later – 2 doses

Pandemic disruptions impacted vaccination coverage

Immunization coverage for selected antigens and age milestones in Toronto Public Health, 2013-14 to 2023-24 school year



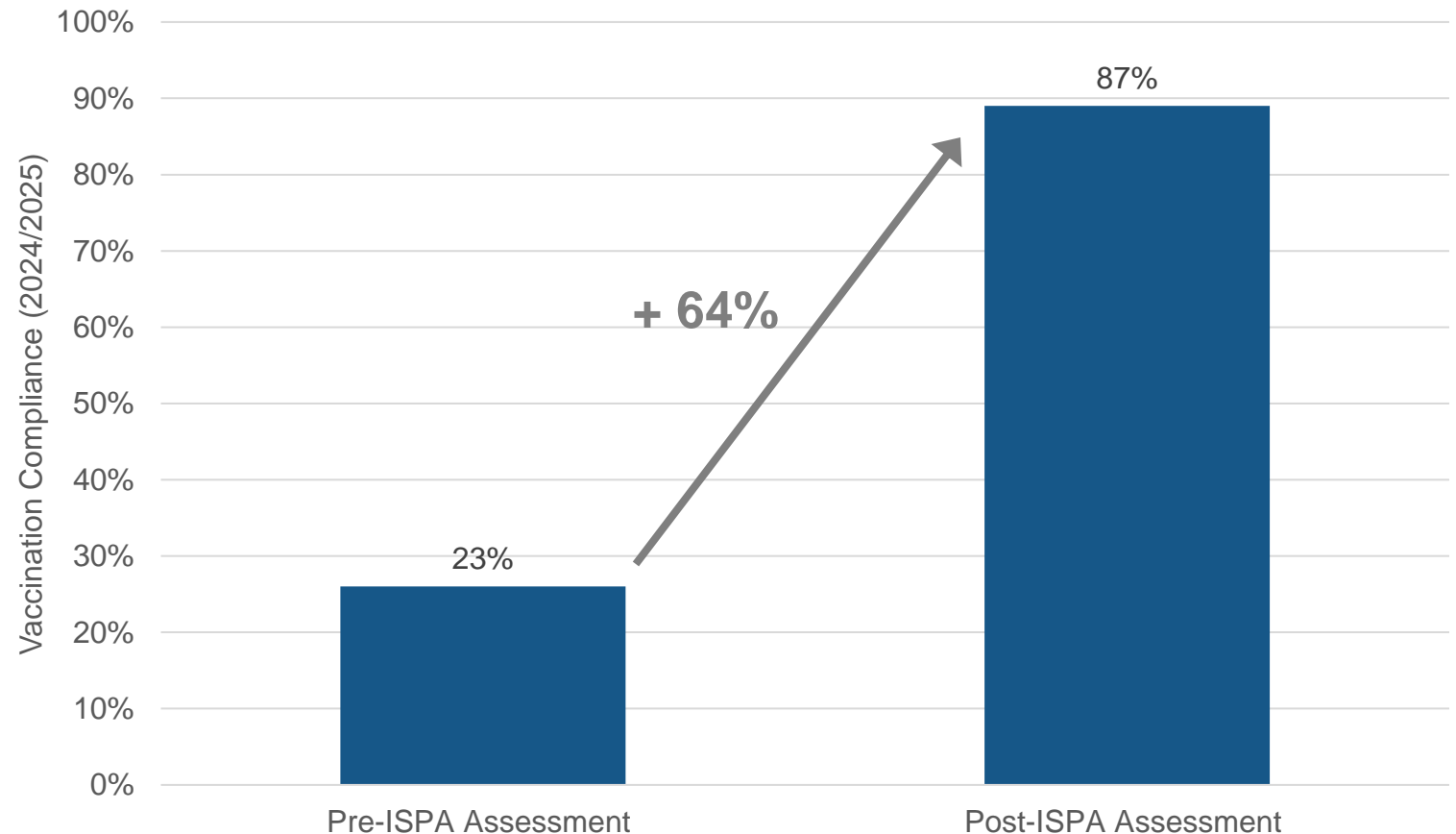
2023-24
Measles- age 7
years – 69%

Age 17 years –
87%

ISPA assessments boost vaccine coverage

Grade 11 vaccination coverage is **87%**, which is an increase of **64%** after the ISPA assessment process this school year.

Another **7.5%** of students have started their vaccinations.



TPH to prompt vaccine record review with a letter to students at end of school year

- TPH has incomplete measles vaccination records for 140,000 Toronto students
- Letter to prompt vaccine record review to be sent to students beginning this week
 - All public Toronto school boards
 - All grades (Born in 2007-2020)

TPH's measles public education campaign

TRAVELING FOR MARCH BREAK? STAY UP-TO-DATE WITH YOUR MEASLES VACCINES BEFORE YOU GO



- 2 doses of the MMR vaccine is recommended for anyone born in 1970 or later.
- Children get their 1st dose after they turn 1 & 2nd dose at 4-6 years old.
- Infants 6-11 months of age can be vaccinated early if travelling to certain areas.
- Adults born before 1970 who are unsure if they had measles or were vaccinated can get an MMR dose.

Toronto Public Health | toronto.ca/health

Report your child's vaccination record to Toronto Public Health



Toronto Public Health | toronto.ca/StudentVaccines

MYTH-BUSTING MONDAYS



Myth: Only children catch measles; it's a childhood disease.

Fact: **False.** Measles is a highly contagious disease that can affect **anyone**. In fact, about **1 in 10 people** who catch measles will develop a serious infection. Certain people are more likely to experience severe measles infection, including people who have a weakened immune system, people who have a chronic illness, people who are malnourished or poorly nourished, and infants under one year of age. **Pregnant people** are also more likely to experience severe infection. A measles infection during pregnancy can lead to miscarriages, giving birth prematurely, and your baby having a low birth weight.

What does MEASLES look like?

Symptoms can start anywhere from 7-21 days after exposure and include:



- Fever
- Runny nose
- Cough
- Red eyes
- Red rash that starts on the face and spreads down the body
- Small blue-white spots (Koplik spots) in the mouth & throat

Toronto Public Health | toronto.ca/measles

Strengthening the measles vaccination program requires coordinated provincial action

Increase Vaccine Confidence

- Addressing mal-information, disinformation, and misinformation, which impacts vaccine confidence and coverage
- Lack of data on parent and caregivers' intentions to vaccinate their children and rationale

Modernize and Integrate Vaccination Records

- Ontario's information system for enforcing *ISPA* is outdated
- The system cannot be used by both health care providers and public health units, hindering *ISPA* enforcement and case and contact management