



PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY PRIMARY & SECONDARY CARE

4 October 2019

Updated Public Health Advisory to Primary and Secondary Care

We understand General Practice is receiving a lot of information in relation to measles, however we are still getting a number of questions, which are addressed in this latest update.

Three new measles cases have been confirmed in Hawke's Bay this week – a Hastings male in his 30's and a toddler in Wairoa on 2 October and a Hastings toddler, today, 4 October. This takes the total number of measles cases in Hawke's Bay, this year, to six.

Two of these cases have caught measles from confirmed cases related to the Auckland outbreak, source tracing for the third is still ongoing.

We have also included a one page hand-out that can be printed for clinic rooms with all the essential measles information.

Reminder: Prepare your practice

- Please, we cannot emphasise enough to ensure your practice staff are immune to measles.
- If you have new staff who have joined in recent months, please check their immunisation status. Vaccine priority includes your frontline staff. If in doubt, immunise (unless pregnant or over 50 years old).

Familiarise yourself with the clinical features of measles.

Clinical description is an illness characterised by all of the following:

- 1) Generalised maculopapular rash, starting on the head and neck
- 2) Fever (at least 38°C if measured) present at time of rash onset
- 3) Cough or coryza or conjunctivitis or Koplik spots present at the time of rash

If all 3 categories of symptoms/signs identified - please notify the **on-call Medical Officer of Health on 06-878 8109** on suspicion and take a nasopharyngeal swab for PCR measles testing.

Advise of any recent travel and / or contact with a case of measles, date of rash onset and immunisation status – indicate on PCR request form and notify.

If 2 out of 3 categories of symptoms/signs identified AND have history of recent travel or contact with a case, please notify on suspicion. Then, if public health recommend, take a nasopharyngeal swab for PCR measles testing.

Please advise us date of rash onset and immunisation status – also indicate on PCR request form.

Isolation and follow-up advice

- Anyone with suspected measles should be sent home and advised strict isolation until measles laboratory results are known, or at least until five days after the rash.
- Suspected measles cases should be managed in a suitable isolation room that can be left empty for two hours after the case leaves.
- All patients should be advised that if their health condition deteriorates they **should** ring ahead to their practice (or ED) so they can be assessed by a doctor with infection control measures arranged in advance.

Vaccine Information

As you are aware there is significant limitations in MMR supply. The Ministry of Health's advice remains:

- Ensure children receive their Schedule vaccines on time at 15 months (Auckland 12 months) and 4 years.
- Actively recall children aged under 5 years who need catch-up vaccination.
- Your frontline staff are a priority group for vaccination
- Vaccinate susceptible close contacts of a confirmed case within 72 hours of first exposure to measles when possible.
- If you are unsure whether one of your patients should be considered a close contact for post exposure vaccination purposes please discuss with the on-call Medical Officer of Health.

Please refer to the **Immunisation Advisory Centre website** for the most up-to-date information on MMR vaccination priority groups: <https://www.immune.org.nz/hot-topic/measles-overseas-and-new-zealand>

Thank you for your cooperation and support.

Dr Nicholas Jones

Medical Officer of Health