

MEASLES UPDATE
Primary Health Care & Front Line Services
15 December 2011

For Distribution to Primary Health Organisations, General Practice, Emergency Departments, Community Pharmacy, District Nursing, Community Allied Health, A&Ms, Paediatric and Adult Medical Services, Wellchild Tamariki Ora Services, maternity and other Primary and Community Health Care providers.

LATEST UPDATES

Welcome to the last measles update for 2011. Following is a list of A&M's that will be available to give urgent **MMR vaccines over the Christmas period**, an **updated reminder to notify ARPHS of any measles cases**, and the **latest data on cases and MMR uptake**.

IMMUNISATION FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON

As we mentioned in the previous update, now is a good opportunity to remind patients to ensure they are fully immunised against measles before the holiday season, when increased travel as well as large gatherings and celebrations are likely to increase the risk of the disease spreading.

If a measles vaccination is required urgently over the Christmas period the following practices are open and can vaccinate.

A&M's open on Christmas Day:

- Apollo Medical Centre, 119 Apollo Drive, Albany
- Baird's Road A&M, 120 Bairds Road, Manukau
- Coast Care A&M, Corner Red Beach Road and Bay Street, Red Beach

Practices closed Christmas Day but open other public holiday days:

- The Doctors, New Lynn, 19 Delta Ave, New Lynn
- Westgate Medical Centre, Fernhill Drive, Massey

Most other practices are only closed on the statutory holidays and then return to normal hours.



If General Practices need to find out the immunisation status of children over the Christmas period, the NIR status query on your computer system can be used. Alternatively please contact the Auckland District Health Board (ADHB) NIR team:

- From 28-30 December please call Janine on 09 638 0394
- From 4-6 January please call Charles on 09 638 0393

IMPORTANT REMINDER ON CASE NOTIFICATIONS

Measles is a notifiable disease under section 74 of the Health Act 1956. The responsible clinician, **on suspicion of measles in a patient, is obliged to notify the Auckland Regional Public Health Service without undue delay.**

Please call 09 623 4600 (ARPHS phone line) which is a 24 hour service. A probable case has fever and rash and one of: cough, coryza, conjunctivitis or Koplik's spots.

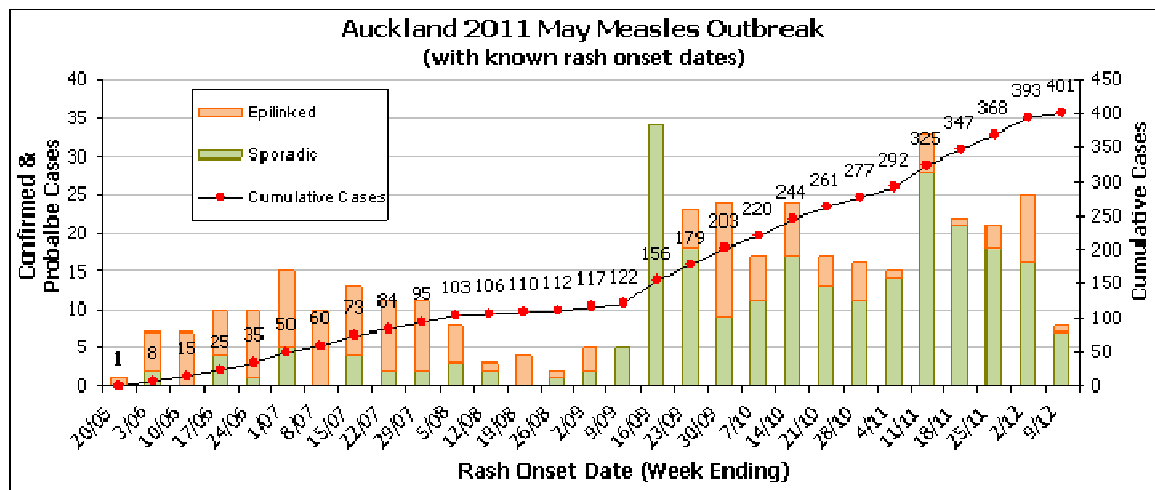
ARPHS needs at least the following information:

1. **Your details:** Name, treating doctor's name, contact number (in case more information is needed)
2. **Case details:** Name, address, contact number, age, ethnicity, NHI
3. **Clinical history:** Onset date, maculopapular rash onset date, fever ($\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$), cough, coryza, conjunctivitis, Koplik's spots, hospitalisation (and date)
4. **Laboratory test(s) arranged:** (Not required for diagnosis)
5. **Immunisation status:** Include dates of MMR immunisations if available
6. **Is the patient linked to other notified patients, and if so name(s)**
7. **Early childhood centres or schools the patient attends**

CASE NUMBERS

As of 13 December, the cumulative totals of notified measles cases in the Auckland region were:

- 403 confirmed or probable cases since May 30, 2011.
- 70 people needing hospital treatment since the outbreak began.



The above graph represents data up until 9am Tuesday 13 December.

MMR UPTAKE

We are pleased to report that we are continuing to see a rise in children (aged 24 months) that have been fully vaccinated against measles and other vaccine preventable diseases, due in most part to the measles enhanced immunisation and awareness campaign.

Please remember that it is still important for all practices to continue to opportunistically ask all patients over the age of 15 about their MMR status and offer those who are unsure or unimmunised the vaccine. Around half of the measles cases this year have been in that age group, and this population has historically low immunisation coverage.

IMMUNISATION ADVISORY CENTRE

The 0800 IMMUNE line is closed between Christmas and New Year. If practices require assistance, please contact Healthline.

UPDATES IN 2012

Updates on measles case numbers can be found on the ARPHS website - <http://www.arphs.govt.nz/health-information/communicable-disease/measles>. From next year, measles updates will only be sent when there is new or relevant information from primary care. Please feel free to contact the primary care teams from your local DHB with any further questions or issues.



IMPORTANT REFERENCES

- Immunisation Advisory Centre: **0800 IMMUNE (0800 466 863)** or www.immune.org.nz
- Healthline: **0800 611 116**
- Ministry of Health: www.moh.govt.nz/measles
- ARPHS: www.arphs.govt.nz/health-information/communicable-disease/measles/notifiable/measles
- Healthpoint: www.healthpoint.co.nz
- For any other questions around the current measles outbreak, please contact Ann Davis: ann.davis@waitematadhb.govt.nz or **09 486 8920 x2524**