



Facsimile Cover Sheet /Wharangi Nama Waea

Date/Te Ra: **10 November 2011**

To/Kia: GP's, Practice nurses at Primary Care Centres, After-hours Centres, Wellington Free Ambulance staff, Pharmacists, the Emergency Department and Hospital Staff in the greater Wellington and Wairarapa regions.	From/Na: Dr Margot McLean Medical Officer of Health Regional Public Health
Name of Agency/Wahi Mahi:	Fax Number/Nama Waea:

Update on Measles and Whooping Cough

I would be grateful if you could distribute the following Public Health Alert regarding measles and whooping cough to relevant staff in your organisation.

There may be changes in our advice in response to the changing situation and case numbers, please check that you are referring to the most up to date Public Health Advice. A copy of the most recent Public Health Alert can be found on our website: <http://www.rph.org.nz>.

If you would also like to receive this by email for ease of distribution, storage and retrieval please advise RPH of your email on rph@huttvalleydhd.org.nz.

Kind regards

Dr Margot McLean
Medical Officer of Health

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He ture no nga korero katoa kei roto o tenei karere, no reira, kia tupato. Mehemea kaore matau kua e mau. Me whakamohiotia atu ki to Tari, me te mea nana i tono mai. E Tika Hoki.



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To: Practice nurses at Primary Care Centres, After-hours Centres, Wellington Free Ambulance staff, Pharmacists, the Emergency Department and Hospital Staff in the greater Wellington and Wairarapa regions.

From: Dr Margot McLean, Medical Officer of Health, Regional Public Health

Public Health Alert

Measles Update

There have been three unconnected cases of measles in the Wellington region notified this week. These are the first confirmed cases since 19 October. Those affected are a teenager, a man in his 30s and a woman in her 30s. Contact tracing is being undertaken. All cases were in Auckland during the incubation period.

The teenager is a student at St Patrick's College in Silverstream. Students, staff and families who have been in contact with the student are being followed up. Before being diagnosed he travelled from Auckland to Wellington on a Jetstar flight:

- JQ 269 Sunday 30 October departing Auckland 5.50pm

The man lives in Kapiti and works in Central Wellington. Colleagues and other close contacts are being followed up. Before being diagnosed he travelled to and from Wellington on the Capital Connection train (7.25am Waikanae to Wellington, 5.25pm Wellington to Waikanae) on:

- Wednesday 2 November
- Thursday 3 November
- Thursday 4 November

In addition he was at Kilbirnie Pool on:

- Saturday 5 November between 2pm and 4pm.

The woman lives in Wellington. Before being diagnosed with measles she attended the Capital Gymnastics Club (11 Hutchinson Street, Newtown) on:

- Thursday 3 November between 4pm and 5.30pm.

Regional Public Health is putting out a media release to advise the community. Patients may contact your medical centre to find out if they have been fully immunised for measles, or they may present with early symptoms of measles.

If you are contacted by someone who has been to the above named venues at those times who has not been vaccinated, or has uncertain vaccination, and works in high risk area such as with young children or sick people, please check their measles serology (IgG) before they return to work or have contact with new people. People born before 1969 are assumed to be immune.

Any person who is likely to have been in contact with one of the cases and is showing early symptoms of measles (fever >38C, malaise plus one of cough, coryza, conjunctivitis) should be managed as a possible case, swabbed and notified to Regional Public Health.

Immunisation

There has been a marked increase in MMR immunisation across the region. This is a great effort by primary care. Increasing the proportion of people in our region protected by MMR immunisation is crucial to stop sporadic cases turning into local or widespread outbreaks.

Please continue to use every opportunity to enquire about measles status of your patients and offer opportunistic immunisation to any non pregnant non immune people born after 1969. Serology is not routinely indicated prior to vaccination and will overwhelm laboratory services if over-requested.

Notification

A reminder that all suspected cases who fit the case definition and you are testing for acute measles must be notified to Regional Public Health. During working hours telephone the notifications line on 570 9267 and after hours notify the on-call medical officer of health via 04 570 9002.

Please refer to the public health alert of 28 October regarding recommended testing for measles: <http://www.rph.org.nz> (Information for health practitioners)

Posters

RPH are mailing out posters to practices in the Greater Wellington Region for use in waiting rooms, reminding people to get MMR vaccination. Further copies can be obtained from our website above.

Pertussis Update

There has been a marked increase in cases of whooping cough over the past five weeks, with 19 cases notified in September, 40 in October and 48 since the start of November. The cases are widespread across the Greater Wellington Region with the exception of Wairarapa where there has been one case. The age range is two weeks to 84 years, with over a third in adults over 20 years.

Testing

Recommending testing is by PCR using Viral Transport Medium (same as measles and influenza swab) and good throat swab is sufficient. Please do not test family members with pertussis symptoms if there are other confirmed cases in the family, or school children or teachers if there are confirmed cases in the school, or other cases fitting the clinical description where there is a known outbreak in your local community. In this situation they can be notified to Regional Public Health as a probable case, and managed clinically as a case. Too many swabs will overwhelm the laboratory capacity.

Testing remains important for high-risk people such as midwives, hospital workers, ECC workers and teachers in schools where pertussis is not known to be circulating.

Immunisation

Pertussis vaccine is fully funded for all children up to the age of 16 years who have not yet completed the full schedule. It is recommended but not funded for other groups (see p. 142 Immunisation Handbook 2011).

We recommend that primary care staff get a Boostrix vaccination to protect themselves given the high community rate.