



Facsimile Cover Sheet

Wharangi Nama Waea

Date/Te Ra: **29 May 2015**

To/Kia: Hospital Specialists, General Practitioners, Practice Nurses, Pharmacists, After-hours Centers and Emergency Departments in the greater Wellington and Wairarapa region	From/Na: Annette Nesdale Regional Public Health
Name of Agency/Wahi Mahi:	Fax Number/Nama Waea:

Public Health Alert- Measles associated with Fire Fighter Stair Challenge at Sky Tower 22nd May

I would be grateful if you could distribute the following information from the Ministry of Health to relevant staff in your organisation.

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@huttvalleydhb.org.nz.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Annette Nesdale".

Dr Annette Nesdale
Medical Officer of Health
Regional Public Health

Public Health Alert – 29 May 2015

To: Hospital Specialists, General Practitioners, Practice Nurses, Pharmacists, After-hours Centres
Emergency Departments in the greater Wellington and Wairarapa region

From: Dr Annette Nesdale

Measles associated with the Fire Fighter Stair Challenge at Sky Tower

The Ministry of Health has been notified of a person with confirmed measles who took part in the Fire Fighter Stair Challenge at the Sky Tower in Auckland on 22nd May while infectious. The person did **not know** they were in the early stage of measles whilst competing. The person would have been infectious from the 22nd to 31st May.

Information about measles has been sent nationally to the Fire Service to circulate to staff and volunteer fire fighters. Several hundred fire fighters and volunteer fire fighters from around the country took part in this event.

Potential cases could start to have early prodromal symptoms (high fever, cough, coryza, sore red eyes, myalgia) from **Saturday 30th May**.

Please be aware of potential measles in people with a clinically consistent illness who:

- participated in, or were associated with the Sky Tower Fire Fighter Stair Challenge on 22nd May
- visited or worked in the Sky City Complex bar, restaurant and casino on 22nd and 23rd May
- visited or worked in the Taihape (BP Services) and Tokoroa (Burger King) on 22nd May
- visited or were in Turangi on 24th May

All suspected cases of measles are notifiable to Regional Public Health on 04 570 9002

Further information

- Advice and actions for health professionals if measles is suspected

This resource can be found at www.rph.org.nz under the 'Health Professionals' tab

Suspected cases of measles need to be confirmed as a matter of urgency

**Skin rash + concurrent fever 38C or higher
Highly suspicious for measles if -**

- Prodromal illness 3-4 days prior
- Appears miserable
- Unimmunised or compromised immune system
- Returned from area with confirmed measles
- Had contact with a confirmed case measles

SUSPECTED CASE

MORBILLIFORM RASH
plus
FEVER 38C or higher
still present at Rash Onset

plus
COUGH or CORYZA or
CONJUNCTIVITIS or
KOPLIK SPOTS

If measles is a possibility, place patients in a separate area to avoid infecting others in the waiting room

Meets Clinical Case Definition?

1. Notify Regional Public Health urgently by phone (04 570 9002)
2. Arrange Laboratory testing by PCR (throat swab)
3. Advise patient to stay at home until 4 days have passed since the onset of the rash
4. Ask about household members who are unvaccinated or had only one MMR vaccination and vaccinate within 72 hours if possible

DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS

- 7-10 days post MMR vaccination
- rubella
- roseola infantum
- human parvovirus
- enteroviruses
- arboviruses
- Kawasaki syndrome
- drug hypersensitivity rash (may present many days after drug has been ceased)
- group A streptococcal disease (scarlet fever)

