

<b>To:</b>	General Practices, Pharmacists, After-Hours Centres and Emergency Departments in the greater Wellington and Wairarapa regions
<b>From:</b>	Dr Annette Nesdale, Medical Officer of Health
<b>Date:</b>	27 June 2019
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Measles update in the greater Wellington region</b>

There are four NEW cases of measles in the Wellington region this week. The four people are not known to each other, and appear to be linked to a measles case who visited Wellington in early June. Approximately 70 contacts are currently being followed up by public health. The prompt use of a face mask immediately on arrival has saved two medical centres from following up waiting room contacts.

Prior to diagnosis, these people visited the following locations while infectious. The public have been advised of this via a [media release](http://www.rph.org.nz/news-and-events/news-and-media-releases/) carried on the RPH website (<http://www.rph.org.nz/news-and-events/news-and-media-releases/>), facebook and Twitter channels. Measles usually develops within 7-14 days after contact with an infectious person - so ask about these locations, dates and times if you see suspected measles cases from now until Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July.

### **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June:**

- Train at 7:59 am from Johnsonville to Wellington, or the 17:17pm train from Wellington to Johnsonville
- Midnight Espresso café in Wellington between 16:30 to 18:00
- Daiso shop in Manners Street in Wellington between 18:00 to 18:10
- McDonalds restaurant (Manners/Victoria St) in Wellington between 18:10 to 18:20.

### **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> and Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June**

- James Cook Hotel foyer or walkway between The Terrace and Lambton Quay.

### **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June**

- Countdown Pharmacy, High Street, Lower Hutt 13:15 to 13:30.

### **Actions you can take NOW to reduce measles transmission include:**

- Review your waiting room protocol; ensure early triage and use of masks to avoid disease transmission to vulnerable patients.
- Be prepared to contact your patients who may have been exposed to a confirmed case of measles in your clinic or waiting area.
- Deliver MMR vaccinations or immunoglobulin to close contacts of a confirmed measles case when recommended by the Medical Officer of Health.

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- Provide documentation of measles immunisations given when requested. This information should be provided at no charge to the patient.
- Maintain the national schedule MMR vaccination doses at 15m and 4 years of age.
- Offer MMR 1 to people up to 50 yrs of age who have never had a measles vaccine.
- Offer MMR if unimmunised people are travelling overseas; especially young children. The Ministry of Health recommends that infants aged 6–15 months travelling to countries with serious measles outbreaks be given MMR vaccine before their travel. Further information can be found [here \(https://www.health.govt.nz/your-health/conditions-and-treatments/diseases-and-illnesses/measles/2019-measles-outbreak-information\)](https://www.health.govt.nz/your-health/conditions-and-treatments/diseases-and-illnesses/measles/2019-measles-outbreak-information).
- An up-to-date list of countries with a measles outbreak can be found on the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website \(https://www.cdc.gov/measles/plan-for-travel.html\)](https://www.cdc.gov/measles/plan-for-travel.html).

## Further information:

- Health Pathways provides updated clinical, infection control and laboratory testing information