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| <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>  | 23 May 2019   |
| <b>Title:</b> | <b>Measles update in the greater Wellington region</b>  |

There is currently one person with measles in the Hutt Valley. This person was probably infected in Australia before arriving in New Zealand. Contact tracing of household and friends is underway by the public health team. Updates on contact tracing will be available on our website. This brings the total of cases in the Wellington region this year to 4 cases. The previous 3 cases acquired measles from ill people linked to the measles outbreak in the Bay of Plenty.

At this time the **greatest risk** for measles infection in the Wellington region is for unimmunised people who have **travelled overseas** or to **places in NZ where measles is occurring**. There are large ongoing measles outbreaks in the Philippines, and some European countries.

### Key actions for primary care at this time:

- Review your waiting room protocol; ensure early triage and use of masks to avoid disease transmission to vulnerable patients
- Ask about measles immunity and 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](#)
- An up-to-date list of countries with a measles outbreak can be found on the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website](#)
- Maintain the national schedule MMR vaccination doses at 15m and 4 years of age
- Offer one dose of MMR to people up to 50yrs of age who have never had a measles vaccine
- 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
- Provide documentation of measles immunisations given when requested. This information should be provided at no charge to the patient
- **NOTIFY suspected cases of measles to Regional Public Health on 04 570 9002**

Further information:

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