
To:	General Practitioners, Hospital Specialists, Pharmacists, After-Hours Centres and Emergency Departments in the greater Wellington region
From:	Dr Annette Nesdale, Medical Officer of Health
Date:	06 October 2023
Title:	Measles Alert

Please distribute the following information to relevant staff in your organisation.

All public health alerts are available at www.rph.org.nz (health professionals – public health alerts)

Measles alert – multiple Wellington locations of interest

Measles case

Te Whatu Ora National Public Health Service Wellington region has been alerted that a person with confirmed measles was staying in Wellington. The case's infectious period in Wellington is from **29 September to 3 October 2023**. Public health has identified locations the case visited in Wellington during this time.

Contacts of the case

Potential cases could develop early **prodromal** symptoms (high fever, cough, coryza, sore red eyes, myalgia) from **9 October to 13 October** (range 6 -21 October) and measles **rash onset** from **13 October to 17 October** (range from 6 to 24 October).

Locations visited by the case while in Wellington are on the next page and will also be listed on the Te Whatu Ora website.

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
- Discuss suspected cases on suspicion with Public Health and contact the Microbiology registrar or SMO on-call to alert the laboratory of the need for urgent PCR testing. Discuss with Microbiology if unsure how to take samples safely
- Ensure you include relevant clinical details and the date of rash onset on the laboratory request form
- Do NOT send patients into Awanui Labs collection centres for measles testing as this puts others at risk
- Serology (IgM) is not useful for diagnosis of suspected measles
- Serology (IgG) testing of contacts can be helpful in some situations – this will be guided by Public Health
- Measles is a **notifiable condition**. Notify suspected cases of measles to Public Health on 04 570 9002; this number is monitored 24/7

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Locations of interest in Wellington

Please be aware of potential measles in people with a clinically consistent illness who were at any of the following locations on these dates:

Location	Details	Dates	Times
Scots College	Any location	29 Sep – 3 Oct	All times
Roxy Cinema	Cafe	30 Sep	9:30am – 12:30pm
Alan Gibbs Centre, Wellington College	SGCNZ National Shakespeare Schools Production	30 Sep	6:30pm – 11:45pm
Wellington Zoo	SGCNZ National Shakespeare Schools Production	1 Oct	9:15am – 7:30pm
Wellington Accident & Urgent Medical Centre	Adelaide Road	1 Oct	8:40pm – 9pm
After Hours Pharmacy	Adelaide Road	1 Oct	9:00pm – 10:00 pm
Zambrero Restaurant	Courtenay Place	1 Oct	10pm – 10:30pm
QT Hotel, Wellington	aka Museum Hotel	2 Oct – 3 Oct	Arrival 11am 2 Oct Dep 10am 3 Oct
Wellington domestic Airport	Domestic terminal	3 Oct	10:30am – 1pm
Jetstar flight JQ258	Wellington to Auckland	3 Oct	1pm – 2:15pm

Note that this list is subject to change as further information becomes available.

Further information

- Health Pathways – Measles page: <https://3d.communityhealthpathways.org/33041.htm>
- Te Whatu Ora: <https://www.tewhatauora.govt.nz/for-the-health-sector/health-sector-guidance/diseases-and-conditions/measles/>
- Healthify: <https://healthify.nz/health-a-z/m/measles/>