Up-to-date Measles Outbreak Information 4/9/19

IF YOU THINK YOU HAVE MEASLES OR HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH A CONFIRMED CASE OF MEASLES, PLEASE CALL US FIRST TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT AS NEEDED.

WHEN YOU ARRIVE FOR A CONSULTATION, PLEASE STAY IN YOUR CAR AND COMMUNICATE WITH US BY PHONE UNTIL A DOCTOR COMES TO SEE YOU (usually in your car).

**If you believe you require an MMR vaccination (see below), please ring in to speak with a nurse to confirm eligibility and make an appointment .**

There are more than 900 cases in Auckland as of 4 September 2019. There are about an extra 20 cases a day. We will update this page if Wellington ever experiences an outbreak.

National MMR vaccination advice (except the Auckland region)

The Ministry of Health has modified the standard MMR vaccination catch-up advice.

**Infants aged 12–14 months who are not travelling to Auckland or overseas a country with a measles outbreak**

**•** Recommended to receive their MMR vaccination at 15 months of age as per the Immunisation Schedule.

**Children aged between 15 months and 4 years**

**•** Recommended to receive their MMR vaccinations on time at 15 months and 4 years as per the Immunisation Schedule.

**Infants aged 6–11 months – special circumstances**

* Can have their first MMR vaccination (MMR0):
  + If they are travelling overseas to a country with a measles outbreak, as advised by the Ministry of Health/Immunisation Schedule, or
  + If parents have concerns about their infant's potential exposure to measles, on the advice of their GP.
* The 15 month and 4 year MMR vaccinations remain due to be administered at the relevant ages as per the Immunisation Schedule.

**Infants aged 12–14 months who are travelling to Auckland ​or overseas to a country with a measles outbreak**

* Should receive all four 15 month vaccinations (MMR, varicella, Hib and PCV10) at least two weeks before travelling to allow their immunity against measles to develop.

**Children aged 5 years or older, teenagers and adults aged under 50 years (i.e. born in 1969 or later) who do not have two documented doses of MMR vaccine**

* Recommended to receive catch-up MMR vaccination.
* When two catch-up doses of MMR vaccine are required, the second MMR vaccination can be given a minimum of 4 weeks after the first MMR dose.

**Adults aged 50 years or older (born in New Zealand before 1969)**

* Not recommended to receive MMR vaccination. They are considered to be immune to measles as there was no measles containing vaccine until 1969 and the disease is so highly infectious.
* Adults born overseas prior to 1969 may have received a measles-containing vaccination. If you are unsure whether an individual is likely to be susceptible to measles, please call us on 0800 IMMUNE (0800 466 863).

Measles vaccines were introduced in [NZ](https://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/publications/immshandbook-a1-history-immunisation-new-zealand-mar18-v2.pdf) in 1969, in the [UK](https://publichealthengland.exposure.co/50-years-of-measles-vaccination-in-the-uk) in 1968, in South Africa in 1975, [USA](https://www.historyofvaccines.org/timeline/measles) in 1968, [Canada](https://academic.oup.com/jid/article/189/Supplement_1/S236/823023) in 1970,  in [Australia](https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/immunisation/immunisation-schedule-vaccine-eligibility-criteria/vaccine-history-timeline) in 1969, Ireland in 1985, China in 1963. Korea in 1965, Hong Kong in 1967, Singapore 1976, Fiji 1982, India 1985.

One dose of the vaccine protects 95 people out of a 100 ie 95%. A second dose gives protection to another 3-4 people out of 100.

**Currently countries with known outbreaks**

* Africa: DRC, Madagascar, Nigeria
* South America: Argentina , Brazil, Chile, Columbia Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela
* USA: all states
* Europe: France, Poland, Ukraine
* Israel, Syria
* Pacific: Japan, Hong Kong, Phillipines
* European countries – Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, France, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Romania, and the United Kingdom
* Neighbouring countries in the European region have also been affected: Albania, Belarus, Georgia, Russia, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine

**FAQs:**

**I am an adult under 50 years old and I really can’t remember if I had my jabs, and my mum/whanau can’t remember either**

*If you are a health care worker in contact with patients, a teacher working with children, or otherwise at risk, you might want to consider having a blood test to check if you are immune, see below. Otherwise please book in for an immunisation.*

**I want a blood test to check if I am immune to measles**

*We are only allowed to order a funded blood test to check immunity if you have been closely exposed to a notified case of measles during their infectious period (5 days before the rash came out, and 5 days afterwards) and the result will impact on school or work attendance. If you haven’t had a close exposure to an infectious case during their infectious period, we are not allowed to order a funded blood test for you. However you can access this test by paying at SCLs to have a measles immunity blood test (about $50-55). You don’t need a lab form from the doctor, you can just go and request it and pay for it. Please ask for a copy of the results to be sent to us.*

**I would like more information about vaccines**

[*Immunisation Advisory Centre of New Zealand*](https://www.immune.org.nz/)