

POPULATION HEALTH

7 September 2009

To all schools and early childcare centres,

Measles is now circulating in New Zealand with confirmed cases in Auckland and Waitemata District Health Boards and an outbreak in the Canterbury District Health Board area. As of yet, there are no confirmed cases in Waikato.

I wanted to take this opportunity to remind all parents of the signs and symptoms of measles (see fact sheet) and to check the measles mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccination status of their children.

General practices are beginning to recall children who are not fully immunised, in particular those aged between 12 months and 20 years to complete their immunisations. With an increase in cases, the MMR first dose is being offered to children from 12 months of age instead of 15 months.

Enclosed is a fact sheet on measles and MMR, developed by the New Zealand Immunisation Advisory Centre (IMAC) www.immune.org.nz

If you do have a case of measles in your school or childcare centre, Population Health will be in contact with you and will work together with you to inform all contacts of the case. If your school or childcare centre has a case of measles identified and you are not contacted by Population Health, could you please notify us of the case as soon as possible.

If there is a confirmed case in your school or childcare centre, all unimmunised contacts will have to remain away from school or the centre for 14 days. All contacts will also be advised to complete their course of MMR vaccination, if not fully immunised.

Thank you for your time. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us on 07 838 2569.

Kind regards,



Dr Anita Bell
Medical Officer of Health
Public Health Unit
Population Health
Waikato District Health Board