

Guide to managing measles in schools

1.

Any student or staff member from your school who is suspected of having measles must be sent home until they are seen by a doctor. If measles is confirmed, they should not return to school until four full days have passed since the rash appeared (day 0 is the day the rash began).

2.

If measles is confirmed, please note the **Infectious Period**, and the **End of the Quarantine Date** on page 2 of this pack (key information page). ARPHS calls all schools with a confirmed measles case, and will tell you these dates.

3.

Identify who has been exposed to measles because they have been in the same class, sports team or cultural group or in the same space as the person with measles during the person's infectious period. Add the End of Quarantine Date to the *Letter to Parents* (page 3) and send this out only to the parents of exposed students. **Please do not name the student or staff member with measles**, identifying only the class name and any team or group by name.

Add the 'End of Quarantine Date' to the *Letter to Staff* and send out to exposed staff.

4.

Exposed students and staff can continue to attend your school if they have proof of receiving one MMR at least two weeks prior, are over 50 years old, or have had confirmed measles in the past. They are considered immune. Please note that it takes two weeks for the MMR vaccine to provide protection.

Proof of immunity includes a Well Child/Plunket book showing MMR vaccination, or medical records showing previous measles. If your school has an immunisation register, please use it to check the records of exposed students. Ask staff under 50 years for medical records to prove they have had one MMR or have had measles.

5.

Exposed students or staff members **who do not have a record** of one MMR vaccination or a measles diagnosis, or whose first MMR was less than two weeks ago, will need to **stay at home until the end of the quarantine period** (see date on page 2).

6.

Please be aware that for some people, such as non-immune pregnant women and anyone with a weakened immune system, catching measles can lead to serious complications. These staff (or parents of any immune compromised children) should talk to their doctor if they have been exposed to measles at your school.

More information:

- Auckland Regional Public Health Service: www.arphs.health.nz
- Ministry of Health: www.health.govt.nz
- Immunisation Advisory Centre: www.immune.org.nz (0800 466 863)
- Healthline: **0800 611116**

