

29 October 2019

Measles cases and contacts sitting exams

- NCEA exams are scheduled 6 November to 3 December.
- Derived grade procedures will need to be used for cases and for any quarantined contacts.
- For cases: when you notify a case who has upcoming exams, please ensure you provide a medical certificate that covers at least the measles isolation period and the dates of any exams they can't attend.
- For contacts: contacts exposed as part of a school group will generally be managed between the school and ARPHS (ARPHS will complete medical certificate requirements for school-confirmed, quarantined contacts).
- Please encourage urgent MMR vaccination for anyone who is unvaccinated and sitting NCEA exams.

Advice on vaccine reactions

- Note that possible vaccine reactions will not be able to be differentiated from true cases for at least a week after a PCR swab is taken (the genotyping process requires ARPHS to send samples to Christchurch).
- This means it is appropriate to consider the clinical severity of symptoms before notifying someone as possible measles, if they have had a recent MMR vaccination.
- Anyone notified as a possible measles case needs to be in isolation while results are pending (and within the usual isolation period).