

20 June 2019

Change in low risk contact management for measles cases

- ARPHS is changing its public health response from today, given the size and spread of the measles outbreak.
- It will be managing confirmed cases and those around them at high risk of measles – contacts in households, and in schools and early learning services.
- ARPHS is asking primary care to provide information to suspected cases, and for the case to hand onto lower risk contacts, if measles is confirmed.
- This information is in the [Measles Whānau Pack](#) and on [the ARPHS website](#).
- There is an updated [Guide to Managing Measles in Primary Care](#).
- Please notify ARPHS of suspected cases using the [Measles Notification Form](#) sent to 09 6307431.

A new process for managing low risk contacts

ARPHS is now only providing information to contacts in households and in high risk settings like early learning services and schools. The service is asking GPs to provide information for cases to give to other contacts.

The new process for managing patients with suspected measles is outlined in the [Guide to Managing Measles in Primary Care](#). There is a [clinical pathway flowchart](#), and Regional HealthPathways has also been updated. Please use these resources from today.

- 1. Test for suspected measles with urgent PCR**
- 2. Please notify ARPHS using the notification form faxed to 09 630 7431**
- 3. Provide advice to suspected cases from the Measles Whānau Pack or our website.**

If GPs see a suspected case of measles, they should print off a copy of the [Measles Whānau Pack](#) (PHOs will be distributing hard copies to practices as well).

Use of the Measles Whānau Pack

- With the patient, the GP fills in the dates for isolation and the infectious period (five days before the rash appears until five days after.) This is page 1 of Fact sheet 1 Information for People with Suspected Measles.

- GPs should give this Pack to the case with the dates filled in. Explain that family and social contacts are at risk of developing measles if not immune, but only those who have been in the same room or space with the case at any time in the infectious period.
- The Pack also has a fact sheet for the case to give to these close contacts (Fact sheet 2 Information for Close Contacts), **but only if the case is confirmed as having measles.**
- Please print off (or have printed off in advance) a number of these factsheets so the case has the necessary information for close contacts if they have measles. It explains what contacts should do – check immunity and stay in quarantine if not immune.
- If you call the case to confirm they have measles, please ask them to pass on to their contacts Fact sheet 2 Information for Close Contacts.
- This pack and the fact sheets are on the [ARPHS measles webpage](#), as is the [Guide to Managing Measles in Primary Care](#). The measles webpage will also have [an online quarantine calculator](#) for contacts to work out their quarantine period.

Vaccinate 12 month old children with MMR1 - [Please see our previous HPA](#)

Due to the current measles outbreak, ARPHS and the Ministry of Health are recommending that the 15 month old MMR (MMR1) vaccination is moved forward to 12 months.

The preference is for all 4 vaccinations scheduled at 15 months to be administered at 12 months – MMR1, pneumococcal (PCV), Hib, and varicella VV (chickenpox) vaccines.

Recall children between 1 and 5 years for MMR1

Please actively recall all children between 1 and 5 years who have not received at least one MMR vaccination.

Do not turn away anyone seeking MMR1

Do not turn away anyone seeking MMR1 if under 50 years (and over the age of 12 months). The vaccine is free for people under 50 years who have not received 2 MMR vaccinations.

Additionally, you may choose to take the opportunity to check vaccination status and offer MMR 1 to anyone in your practice when they seek care for other reasons.

MMR can be offered to children from 6 months if they are travelling overseas to countries where there are currently measles outbreaks such as the US, Japan and the Philippines. [See the Ministry of Health website for more information](#). MMR administered to infants aged 6 – 12 months is categorised as MMRO. They will still require MMR1 and MMR2.

If in doubt about vaccination history, immunise rather than check serology.