

**MEASLES ALERT – information for NSW General Practitioners***Please distribute this information to all staff***Key points for GPs**

1. **Watch out for measles**
2. **Isolate suspected cases**
3. **Ring the public health unit and arrange urgent tests**

Several cases of measles have been identified in Australia in August, including an outbreak on the NSW North Coast.

**Who is at greatest risk of measles?**

- Infants less than 12 months of age (too young to be vaccinated)
- Children over 12 months of age who have not been fully vaccinated against measles.
- Adults born after 1965 who have never had measles and have not had 2 MMR doses.
- People who travel overseas.

**How does measles present?**

- 2-4 days of prodromal illness with fever, cough, coryza and conjunctivitis.
- A maculopapular rash with fever typically begins on face and neck and becomes generalised. It lasts between 4 to 7 days.
- Acute otitis media and bronchopneumonia are common complications.

**How should GPs manage suspected measles cases?**

- Prevent other patients from exposure by isolating suspected cases. Where possible see suspected cases in their home. Don't allow suspected cases to linger in waiting rooms, either at the surgery, ED or at the pathology collection centre.
- If you make a diagnosis of measles, telephone your public health unit during the consultation; don't wait for results before notifying.
- Arrange *urgent* tests including measles serology, nose and throat specimen (viral transport swab) and a first pass urine sample (~50mL) for measles immunofluorescence and culture.
- If suspected cases are well enough to be cared for at home, they should remain isolated there until 4 days after the onset of the rash (when they are no longer infectious).

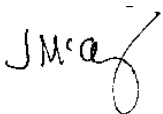
**Check your patient's immunisation history**

- Routinely immunise infants at 12 months and children at 4 years with MMR.
- Ensure that people born after 1965 have received 2 doses of MMR.
- Opportunistic immunisation is especially important for young adults planning overseas travel
- Health care workers are at increased risk. Ensure that you and your staff are immune to measles.

**For more information, please call your local public health unit**

Camperdown	02 9515 9420	Penrith	02 4734 2022	Broken Hill	08 8080 1499	Newcastle	02 4924 6477
Gosford	02 4349 4845	Randwick	02 9382 8333	Dubbo	02 6841 5569	Port Macquarie	02 6588 2750
Hornsby	02 9477 9400	Albury	02 6080 8900	Goulburn	02 4824 1837	Tamworth	02 6767 8630
Parramatta	02 9840 3603	Bathurst	02 6339 5601	Lismore	02 6620 7500	Wollongong	02 4221 6700

Please visit our website: [www.health.nsw.gov.au/infect/diseases.html](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/infect/diseases.html)


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