

22 August 2019

Dear Principal

Measles in Schools – Change in public health response

With a continuing wave of measles cases, Auckland Regional Public Health Service is now unable to notify all schools if they have a measles case.

Letting schools know about measles cases

We have asked GPs to check if any patient with confirmed measles attends a school, and if so, instruct the parents to advise the school, along with the infectious period. This also applies to staff members at schools.

You do not need to undertake any action unless the case is confirmed.

If there is a suspected case at your school (for example, a parent calls to say their child is being investigated with possible measles), the child will need to stay at home while tests are being carried out.

Updated resources

We have updated our resources to help schools manage confirmed cases. The School Whanau Pack on ARPHS [measles webpage](#) is still the guide to managing confirmed measles cases and their contacts. This explains who needs to go into quarantine because they may have been exposed to measles, and who may be immune. An [online quarantine calculator](#) will help you identify the quarantine dates at your school.

There are also letters in the Whanau Pack for parents and for staff members who may have been exposed. The quarantine dates can be entered in these letters, and then emailed out to those exposed or their parents.

You can contact ARPHS for further advice if required on 09 623 4600

A guide to a school's legal powers under the Education and Health Acts is attached.

Vaccination for 1 to 50 years

It is not too late in this outbreak to get more people vaccinated, in fact this is the best way to stop the spread of measles.

Please encourage your staff and your families to get at least one MMR vaccination. Many adults mistakenly believe that they had a measles-containing vaccine as a child, so it is important to try to get proof before your school has a case. There is a poster and a newsletter insert attached.

Isolating cases, excluding those who have been exposed but are not immune, and promoting vaccination to your school community will all help protect others, especially those at risk of complications from the disease.

Thank you for your help in reducing the impact of measles in your community.

Yours sincerely



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