

2 February 2020

MEASLES ALERT AFTER NEW MEASLES CASE CONFIRMED

A new case of measles has been reported in a Sydney woman.

The woman, who reports being vaccinated as a child, spent time in parts of Bondi Junction, Rose Bay and Double Bay while infectious, including over the Australia Day weekend:

Sunday 26 January

- Coles Rose Bay 694 Old South Head Rd, Rose Bay North, 1:30 – 2pm
- Rose Bay North Cellars 659 Old South Head Rd, approximately 1:30 – 2pm
- The Golden Sheaf, 429 New South Head Rd, Double Bay, 7 – 8pm

Monday 27 January 2020

- Virgin Airlines flight VA1627 Sydney to Ayers Rock
- Virgin Airlines flight VA1628 Ayers Rock to Sydney
- Blue Emu Airport Parking and Bus around 8am and 5pm

Tuesday 28 January

- Blue Emu Airport Parking and Bus around 8am and 10am
- Bondi Junction 7-Day Medical Centre around 10:30 – 11am
- Chemist Warehouse, 133-135 Oxford Street, Bondi Junction around 11am
- Coles Eastgate Bondi Junction, 71-91 Spring St, Bondi Junction around 11am to noon

Friday 31 January

- Bondi Doctors 19 O'Brien St, Bondi Beach, 10:50am-12:30pm
- Chemist Warehouse Rose Bay, 511 Old South Head, Rose Bay 12:00pm-12:30pm

South Eastern Sydney Deputy Director of Public Health, Dr Vicky Sheppard said none of the locations visited by the woman pose an ongoing risk. The public health unit will try to contact where possible other people in those locations at the same time to determine if they need preventive injections, which include the measles vaccine which is effective if given up to three days after exposure.

Infants, pregnant women and people with compromised immune systems who were at Bondi Junction 7-day Medical Centre between 10:30 and 11:30 on Tuesday January 28 are urged to contact the public health unit on 1300 066 055 as soon as possible to determine if protective antibodies are required.

It can take up to 18 days for symptoms to appear following exposure to a person with measles. People in the same places at the same time as the woman should be alert for signs and symptoms of measles until February 18.

“Symptoms to watch out for include fever, sore eyes and a cough followed three or four days later by a red, blotchy rash that spreads from the head to the rest of the body,” Dr Sheppeard said.

“Anyone who develops symptoms of measles should phone their GP to ensure they don’t wait alongside other patients before seeing their doctor.

“The measles-mumps-rubella vaccine is safe and effective protection against measles,” she said.

Two doses of measles vaccine provides lifelong protection in 99 out of 100 people who are vaccinated.

“It’s free for anyone born during or after 1966 who hasn’t already had two doses. If you’re unsure whether you’ve had two doses, it’s safe to have another.”

Measles is highly contagious and is spread in the air through coughing or sneezing by someone who is unwell with the disease.

While the risk of infection is low in fully-vaccinated people, health experts urge anyone who comes into contact with someone who has measles to remain alert for symptoms.

If symptoms develop they should limit their exposure to others and seek medical care.

Measles is eliminated from Australia, but remains common in some countries popular with overseas travellers. All travellers are urged to check they are fully vaccinated before they leave Australia to reduce the risk of catching measles while overseas.

Protecting children from potentially deadly diseases is a key priority for the NSW Government, which has invested approximately \$130 million in the 2019-20 Immunisation Program budget, including Commonwealth and state vaccines.

The latest Annual Immunisation Coverage Report shows vaccination rates in NSW are at their highest level ever, with more than 95% of five year olds vaccinated against measles.

For more information on measles visit:

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/measles/Pages/key-facts.aspx>