

# Measles Alert

## Information for NSW General Practitioners

Please distribute to all medical and nursing staff

1. **Two recent cases of measles arriving in NSW from overseas. These cases are not linked.**
2. **The infants infected with measles have spent time in various locations in Sydney.**
3. **Consider measles in people arriving from overseas with fever and in anyone with fever and maculopapular rash.**
4. **Isolate cases of suspected measles and call Public Health on 1300 066 055.**

## Measles in NSW

- An infant infected with measles spent time whilst infectious in Chouchou BeBe Adventure Playground Auburn Central Mall between 1300 and 1530 Thursday 11 January. The infant returned from Saudi Arabia where they acquired their infection.
- This is the second case of measles in 2024, with the first case being an infant who arrived in NSW after travelling to Pakistan. This case spent time whilst infectious at Sydney Airport Terminal 1 International Arrivals between 1830 and 2100 on 10 January and Five Star Coffee and Nuts Lakemba between 1500 and 1700 on 12 January.
- There is no link between the two cases.
- Measles remains common in many parts of the world, with large outbreaks currently occurring in several countries, including Yemen, India, Kazakhstan, Ethiopia and Pakistan.
- More imported cases of measles can be expected as people arrive from overseas holidays.

## How does measles present?

- A 2-4 day prodromal illness with fever, cough, coryza, and conjunctivitis.
- A maculopapular rash typically begins on the face and neck and then spreads down the body.
- Measles in previously vaccinated people may present atypically, with milder symptoms and a slower progression to the rash.
- Cases are usually infectious from the day before the prodrome to four days after the rash onset.

## How to manage suspected cases

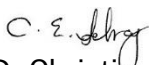
- **Isolate:** measles is a highly contagious illness.
- **Notify:** inform your Public Health Unit (PHU) immediately (don't wait for test results before calling).
- **Test:** collect a nose and throat swab, and a first pass urine sample for nucleic acid testing (PCR) and blood for measles serology (IgM and IgG). Mark the tests requested as URGENT. Your PHU can assist in expediting testing.

## Opportunistic measles vaccination

- Consultations prior to overseas travel are opportunities to encourage measles vaccination for any patients with uncertain measles vaccination histories.
- Children aged from 6 months to under 12 months can have an MMR vaccination early if travelling overseas. For more details see the [Australian Immunisation Handbook](#).
- Measles containing vaccines (MMR) are free in NSW for those born during or after 1966 who have not previously had two documented doses.

## Further information

- Measles travel posters and other resources for your clinic are available from the NSW Health measles page: [www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/measles](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/measles).



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**NSW Health**

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