

4 February, 2020

Measles alert for Camperdown

Sydney Local Health District has issued a measles alert after a person, with no recent overseas travel, was diagnosed with the infection. This is the eighth confirmed measles case in NSW in 2020.

While infectious, the person spent time at the University of Sydney, Camperdown campus.

People who visited the Laneway café in the Wentworth building on the campus, between 8am and 4pm on Tuesday, January 28 should be alert for signs and symptoms of measles until 15 February, as it can take up to 18 days for symptoms to present following exposure.

Measles is highly infectious. Symptoms include fever, sore eyes and a cough followed a few days later by a rash. It can have serious complications, particularly for young children.

The District's Clinical Director of Public Health, Dr Leena Gupta, said people with measles symptoms should stay home from school or work and not go out in public.

"The measles virus is highly contagious and is spread through the air by someone who is unwell with the disease," Dr Gupta said. "We recommend medical treatment be sought, but if you or your child do have these symptoms you should call the doctor's surgery before you go in so they can make arrangements so you don't wait with others."

NSW Health considers children or adults born since 1966 who do not have documented evidence of receiving two doses of MMR vaccine, or evidence of previous measles infection, to be highly susceptible to measles and recommends they be vaccinated.

"For young children, the MMR vaccine is recommended at 12 months and again at 18 months of age. Two doses of the vaccine are required for lifelong protection," Dr Gupta said.

Children, teenagers, and adults who are not fully vaccinated against measles can receive the MMR vaccination from their doctor at no cost. It is safe to have the vaccine more than twice, so people who are unsure should be vaccinated.

The NSW Government is investing \$130 million in the 2019-20 Immunisation Program budget, including Commonwealth and state vaccines.

For more information, please visit:

http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/factsheets/Pages/Measles_Factsheet.aspx.