

MEASLES ALERT

Christchurch has had two confirmed measles cases in the past 10 days. The index case has recovered and is non-infectious. The second case (unimmunised) contracted the illness while in the waiting room of the GP that the index case attended and there is concern that others have subsequently been exposed at the medical centre, a school, church, restaurant and playground.

Community and Public Health are working with the medical centre, the school and church to identify susceptible* contacts. Members of the public who were at Nandos restaurant in Sydenham and the Margaret Mahy Playground on the evening of Waitangi Day (6 February 2018) may have been exposed.

Symptoms usually take about 10 days to develop but may take as long as 21 days.

Doctors are requested to:

- 1) **consider the diagnosis** (and look for Koplik spots) in suspected cases, especially children, with symptoms (fever, maculopapular rash, cough, coryza and conjunctivitis),
- 2) **request serology and a nasopharyngeal swab for PCR** to confirm the diagnosis
- 3) **notify on suspicion** (form on the Pegasus intranet)
- 4) **inform C&PH of possible susceptible contacts** who may require immune globulin.

Prophylaxis for susceptible* contacts

MMR prophylaxis is no longer appropriate for persons who were contacts on the 6th but immune globulin is a consideration for pregnant women and infants less than 6 months of age if no more than 6 days have passed since exposure. Please inform this office if you see a contact that is in this category.

* Contacts are considered to be susceptible if **none** of the following apply:

- born before 1969 (measles vaccine was introduced in 1969)
- confirmed measles infection in the past
- documented vaccination with two doses of MMR vaccine
- documented immunity to measles.

Your assistance with this matter would be very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Ramon Pink
Medical Officer of Health