
COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH

To Canterbury General Practitioners and Practice Nurses

09 January 2020

Telephone: 03 364 1777

Fax: 03 379 6484

Canterbury

District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora o Waitaha

Disease Alert

Measles

There has been a confirmed childhood case of measles travelling through the South Island in late December / early January. They were out and about in Christchurch on Sunday 29th December 2019, during their infectious period (December 28th to January 6th 2020). Measles rash onset was January 2nd.

They travelled on to the Whare Flat Folk Festival from December 30th to January 3rd, and was then diagnosed on return through Christchurch by an astute GP at Moorhouse Medical Centre on January 5th.

Subsequently, all unimmunised members of the family were isolated.

Given the large number of children and adults exposed to the case on 29th December, it is important to remain alert for the possibility of measles cases who, if exposed on the 29th December, may develop symptoms between Sunday 5th January and Sunday 19th January 2020.

Please notify Community and Public Health immediately on suspicion.

We have encouraged all potential cases *not to* present directly to clinics, but to phone ahead so appropriate isolation can be arranged for clinical examination.

The use of serology to confirm immune status must only be carried out after consultation with Community and Public Health, as the patient may be infectious.

Yours faithfully,

Dr. Alistair Humphrey
Medical Officer of Health (Canterbury)

Community and Public Health

▪ Christchurch office: PO Box 1475, Christchurch 310 Manchester Street, Christchurch, Telephone 03 364 1777, Facsimile 03 379 6484, ▪ Ashburton Office: PO Box 110, Ashburton, Telephone 03 307 6902, Facsimile 03 307 6904 ▪ South Canterbury Office: PO Box 510, Timaru, Telephone 03 687 2600, Facsimile 03 688 6091, ▪ West Coast Office: PO Box 443, Greymouth, Telephone 03 768 1160, Facsimile 03 768 1169

www.cph.co.nz