



# TOI TE ORA PUBLIC HEALTH

Bay of Plenty + Lakes Districts



Toi Te Ora Public Health  
PO Box 2120  
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Tēnā koutou

## **Measles cases in the Bay of Plenty and Lakes District Health Board areas - advice for clinicians**

Toi Te Ora Public Health (Toi Te Ora) is currently managing several cases of measles in the Bay of Plenty and Lakes District Health Board (DHB) areas. We are working to follow up contacts of the confirmed and suspected measles cases.

To help limit the spread of measles in our community, please see the following advice regarding suspected measles cases and MMR vaccine prioritisation.

### **Suspected measles management**

#### Symptoms

Measles typically begins with prodromal symptoms such as fever, coryza, cough and conjunctivitis. A maculopapular rash typically appears on day three to day seven of the illness. Koplik spots may be present. In this outbreak, several patients have initially presented with diarrhoea and vomiting and significant dehydration. Measles is a serious illness.

#### Notification

If you suspect measles, notify the on-call Medical Officer of Health promptly via Tauranga Hospital switchboard on 07 579 8000. Do not wait for laboratory results before notifying.

#### Infection Control

Please ensure all your staff have confirmed immunity to measles and review your procedures to prevent measles spreading between patients in your practice. The following is important:

- Display a poster at the entrance to your practice (see the resources section).
- If measles is a possibility, immediately place the patient in isolation to avoid exposure of others in the waiting room.
- If a patient phones ahead concerned about measles, the patient could be reviewed in their car in the car park or brought into the clinic via a separate entrance and placed in isolation or seen at the end of the day after other patients have left.
- A room remains infectious for one hour after a person with measles has left.
- If the patient requires transfer to hospital please advise the Emergency Department of your concerns about measles.

#### Testing

Naso-pharyngeal swabs for measles PCR testing (use viral transport medium tube) and blood for measles

serology are the recommended tests to diagnose or exclude measles. Please feel free to discuss appropriate testing with the on-call Medical Officer of Health.

### MMR immunisation advice

Please refer to The Immunisation Advisory Centre fact sheet for outbreak specific MMR advice -

<https://www.immune.org.nz/sites/default/files/resources/Written%20Resources/AdministrationMMRQA20190904V01aFinal.pdf>

General practice teams are asked to prioritise the following groups for MMR immunisation:

- The routine childhood MMR immunisations, given at 15 months and four years
- People aged four years to 50 years (born after 1 January 1969) who have not had at least one dose of MMR
- Anyone born after 1 January 1969 who has been identified by Toi Te Ora as a contact of a measles case and does not have two documented MMR vaccinations.

To minimise the laboratory impact, please limit serology testing to suspected cases and contacts only. If a patient is unsure of their immunity and documentation is lacking, please arrange vaccination rather than checking serology.

If you have a shortage of vaccine stock, please contact your immunisation coordinator:

<b>EBPHA</b>	Suzanne Thompson	<a href="mailto:Suzanne.Thompson@ebpha.org.nz">Suzanne.Thompson@ebpha.org.nz</a>	021 587 281
<b>WBPHO</b>	Kerri Lawrence	<a href="mailto:Kerri.Lawrence@ebpha.org.nz">Kerri.Lawrence@ebpha.org.nz</a>	022 023 3244
<b>RAPHS:</b>	Kim Winckel	<a href="mailto:Kim.Winckel@lakesdhb.govt.nz">Kim.Winckel@lakesdhb.govt.nz</a>	027 513 0931
	Sue Taft	<a href="mailto:Sue.Taft@rgpg.co.nz">Sue.Taft@rgpg.co.nz</a>	027 525 8238

### Resources

The Ministry of Health has developed printable resources for primary care. Please print copies of the following posters and display them in your waiting rooms and near reception areas.

Printable flyer for the public (waiting rooms etc.) – *Attention you could have measles* -

<https://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/pages/measles-noplaneattention28feb14.pdf>

Printable flyer for health professionals – *Think measles in the community* -

<https://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/pages/measles-ph-flyer-hth-profs-non-travel.pdf>

For further information about measles (including symptoms) for health professionals:

Toi Te Ora Public Health website - [www.toiteora.govt.nz/gp\\_resources\\_measles](http://www.toiteora.govt.nz/gp_resources_measles)

Ministry of Health website - [www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/measles-information-health-professionals](http://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/measles-information-health-professionals)

Ngā mihi nui



**Dr Phil Shoemack**

Medical Officer of Health