

Monday 11 March 2019 0800**Important information for all GP teams, Community Pharmacists, Community Nursing and Aged Care Facilities – Please share this with everyone in your team****Current Status**

- Cases continue to increase; 22 cases have been confirmed at this point with more under investigation.
- The current focus remains on rapidly increasing the immunisation rate across the community to limit spread.
- Ministry, DHB and PHARMAC pressure has enabled us to improve vaccine supply. We are expecting a shipment of vaccines to be delivered to practices on Tuesday and have been informed supply will be steady after that.
- At this stage all the vaccinations will be delivered in general practice. We recognise this is an extraordinary demand but we cannot, at this stage, confirm any additional funding.
- Please ensure each vaccine given is entered into the National Immunisation Register as well as making the claim.
- Two doses of MMR vaccine are funded for all unimmunised or partially immunised people who were born after 1969 over 12 months' old and are NZ residents or on a two year working visa. The immunisation subsidy includes the vaccine administration fee of \$24.15 so the patient should not be charged. Non-resident patients may be charged an administration fee and they may be able to recover this on their insurance.
- 24 Hour Surgery will see unwell patients out of hours but are not providing routine MMR vaccinations.

Recommendations

- We encourage healthcare staff to be vaccinated if in the at-risk age group.
- Regarding vaccinating the 6 to 12 month olds, it is not proposed to vaccinate this group at this time. Vaccination of this age group does not confer full immunity. It is better to vaccinate the older age groups to provide immunity for the younger.

Current priorities for immunisation

1. People who are not up-to-date according to the schedule for their age group
 - Children and young adults (age range 5 years to 28 years) who are either not immunised or who have only received one MMR dose to date.
 - Children 12 months to 5 years who have never received any doses of MMR.
2. The four-year-old MMR can be brought forward to no sooner than four weeks after the previous MMR.
3. Adults aged 29 to 50 (this cohort only received one dose of measles vaccine).

People born before 1969 are considered to be low risk and do not require vaccination.

Management of Potential Cases

- Please review your infection prevention and control processes so that potential measles cases are not putting your other patients at risk. Ensure your messaging asks patients to ring before arriving. Consider asking them to remain in their cars until they are seen.
- See [HealthPathways](#) for diagnosis, management and notification.
- Continue to do PCR testing on potential cases at present but there will be a point soon at which we will be relying on clinical diagnosis and will no longer be testing each case – we will advise further.
- Community & Public Health are no longer doing contact tracing. Notify the Medical Officer [[form](#)] and provide appropriate advice for known contacts including family members and any people who may have been exposed in the practice. See HealthPathways for further guidance.

We continue to appreciate the difficult work you are doing.