

**Important information for all GP teams, Community Pharmacists, Community Nursing and Aged Care Facilities – Please share this with everyone in your team**

- The first shipments of vaccines to respond to the measles outbreak have arrived in Canterbury. To date 9,605 doses have been given to patients, 12,000 doses are in practices but have not yet been given. 6,050 doses remain at ProPharma.
- At this stage we are not vaccinating anyone outside the priority groups (see below). It is important that we use the stock on hand to stop the spread of measles.
- Currently some practices have more vaccines than they need to vaccinate their priority groups, and others do not have enough.
- Remaining vaccine supplies are going to be distributed according to practice need. Need will be determined by the size of the practice's vaccination priority group population, the number of vaccines already delivered to the practice, and the number of appropriate patients who have already been vaccinated (determined by NIR data).
- When you need to order more vaccines please email your immunisation coordinator by 3pm every day.
  - Either: [jayne@canterburyimms.co.nz](mailto:jayne@canterburyimms.co.nz) or [immunisation@pegasus.org.nz](mailto:immunisation@pegasus.org.nz)
- National Immunisation Register (NIR) data is being used to measure the uptake of MMR and for planning future vaccine requirements. Please be sure to enter details of all patients into the NIR at the same time as generating an immunisation claim.
- There have been many enquiries about additional community or pharmacy vaccination clinics. Due to limited vaccine supply and the fact that general practice holds the most complete patient record it has been agreed that vaccinations, for this outbreak, will only occur in general practice.

**Please ONLY vaccinate patients in these priority groups:**

**Priority 1:** Children aged 12 months to 13 years who have never been vaccinated

**Priority 2:** Children and adults aged 14 years to 28 years who have never been vaccinated

**Priority 3:** Ring-fencing children who cannot be vaccinated, such as the very young or for whom vaccination is contra-indicated (see Note 1 below)

**Priority 4:** Continue with the routine immunisation programme (15 months and 4 years)

**Priority 5:** Occupational groups who have frequent contact with children such as EEC, primary and secondary school teachers; residential care managers, healthcare workers etc., who have never been vaccinated.

- Influenza vaccinations were due to be distributed to practices and pharmacies from Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March. In light of the current situation affecting Canterbury, Ministry of Health and PHARMAC have agreed to delay delivery of vaccines until the week of 1<sup>st</sup> April. Funded flu vaccinations can only be claimed from the 1<sup>st</sup> of April. We recommend waiting to book clinics until vaccines are received by your practice or pharmacy.
- We understand practices are asking for guidance about measles infection prevention and control and serology and we will provide an update on these later in the week.

Kind regards,

Dr Phil Schroeder, Dr Kim Burgess and Gareth Frew  
Canterbury Primary Response Group

[www.primaryhealthresponse.org.nz](http://www.primaryhealthresponse.org.nz)

*Note 1: This means caregivers and close contacts of children aged less than 12 months or those who cannot be vaccinated. This needs to be determined on a case by case basis. This should include ensuring 2 doses of MMR have been given as we need very high levels of protection for these very vulnerable children. Refer to the Immunisation Handbook for additional advice.*