CANTERBURY PRIMARY RESPONSE GROUP **MEASLES** UPDATE

Friday 17th May 2019 10:00hrs

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

Current Situation

- The last confirmed case of measles in Canterbury was notified on the 30th March. Given that an outbreak is deemed to be over following the infectious period (5 days) and two incubation periods (2x 21 days) we have now reached that time. It is likely that the current measles outbreak will be declared as over by Community and Public Health in the near future pending no new cases.

- Again we appreciate the extreme effort required in general practice to see out the enhanced MMR vaccination programme while under pressure to also deliver influenza vaccination clinics.

Current Recommendations

- Vaccination distribution and priority across New Zealand is now being directed to areas currently experiencing measles cases.

- It is now appropriate to return to your usual levels of MMR stock and not reorder further until minimum stock levels have been reached again in your practice.

- The anticipated vaccination programme going forward:

    - Revert to the National Immunisation Schedule (usually providing the first MMR vaccination at 12-15months age and then the second at 4 years of age).

    - Within the National Schedule any unvaccinated individuals under the age of 50 years may still be vaccinated on an opportunistic basis.

    - Both CDC and the New Zealand Ministry of Health currently recommend that those embarking on overseas travel (particularly to endemic areas) are fully vaccinated with a documented 2 MMR doses prior to travel. https://safetravel.govt.nz/news/measles-check-you-are-protected-you-travel

    - People born before 1969 (50 years of age and over) will likely have been exposed to the measles virus and will have acquired immunity. It is not indicated to vaccinate in this older age group.

- When you do need to order more vaccines, for a time, please still email your own immunisation coordinator by 3pm each day, to either jayne@canterburyimms.co.nz or immunisation@pegasus.org.nz

- We do not anticipate the need for any further CPRG measles updates unless the situation changes. Community and Public Health may well issue further advice separately.

Kind regards,

Dr Phil Schroeder

Canterbury Primary Response Group www.primaryhealthresponse.org.nz