

25 May 2016

To all Parents/Caregivers

As you may be aware there is an outbreak of measles in Waikato with over 35 confirmed cases of measles reported in Waikato and other parts of the country so far. To date the Hawke's Bay Public Health Service has had no confirmed cases of Measles, however we remain alert to this possibility.

Measles is a serious, highly infectious viral disease that is easy to prevent through immunisation.

We want to help prevent an outbreak of measles occurring in Hawke's Bay and we are urging parents and caregivers to check their children's vaccination status/history. This should be recorded in their Well Child/Plunket book and in their medical records at their GP (Primary Care Doctor).

- If your child has a record of two doses of Measles, Mumps and Rubella vaccination (MMR) they are considered immune. Please ensure the school has a copy of your child's immunisation certificate.
- If your child has a record of one dose of MMR they should have another as soon as possible. Following the second dose of MMR your child would be considered immune and would be able to attend school if there was a case of measles. Please ensure school has a copy of your child's immunisation certificate.
- If your child has no record of MMR vaccine they should have one dose now and a second dose FOUR weeks later.
- Vaccination is free.

If there is an outbreak in Hawke's Bay and a child in your care is not considered immune it may mean they are unable to attend school during this time to prevent the spread of this highly infectious disease.

Vaccination is not compulsory. It is highly recommended as it is in the health interests of your child, and it also helps prevent the spread of infection to students, teachers and other members of the community if an outbreak of measles occurs. If you are unable to prove your child's immunisation status they may need to be excluded from school for two weeks in the event of an outbreak.

If you require further information, you can find out more from the Ministry of Health's website www.health.govt.nz/measles.

Yours faithfully



Dr Rachel Eyre
Medical Officer of Health