

15 June 2016

To all Parents/Caregivers

As you may be aware there is an outbreak of measles in New Zealand with over 60 confirmed cases of measles reported so far. In Hawke's Bay we have recently had a visitor to our region who was infectious with measles during their stay. Our Hawke's Bay DHB Public Health staff are currently working to try and prevent spread. This letter is a reminder to be prepared for a potential outbreak.

- 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 immunisation status/history. This should be recorded in their Well Child / Plunket book and in their medical records at their GP (Primary Care Doctor).
- **Please ensure the school has a copy of your child's immunisation certificate.** If your child has a record of two doses of Measles, Mumps and Rubella immunisation (MMR) they are considered immune. 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.
- If your child has no record of MMR vaccine they should have one dose now and a second dose FOUR weeks later.
- **Immunisation is FREE from your GP or Practice Nurse.**

Immunisation is highly recommended as it protects your child and helps prevent the spread of infection in the community when an outbreak occurs. If there is no documentation of 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](http://www.health.govt.nz/measles)

Yours faithfully



Dr Rachel Eyre  
Medical Officer of Health