

MEASLES UPDATE 9/3/2019

We are currently fielding a large number of inquiries with regards to the current measles outbreak in Christchurch. We understand that people are feeling anxious and are happy to speak with anyone who has questions.

A vaccination programme across the whole of Canterbury is being provided. We are expecting this programme to last for at least 6 weeks.

We cannot vaccinate all at risk patients immediately. Our priorities have been developed taking into account vaccine supply, workforce capacity and the most “at risk” groups.

We will be texting all patients who require vaccination at the time we have the ability to vaccinate them. If you can not/do not receive a text please call the medical Centre to speak with our nurse about whether you require an appointment.

Current priorities for immunisation are split into three groups:

1. Children and young adults (aged 12 months to 28 years) who are not up to date according to the schedule for their age group.
2. Children aged less than five years who have had one vaccination will be offered the second MMR vaccination.
3. All adults aged 29 – 50 (most of this cohort only received one dose of measles vaccination). We will be sending text message recalls to these groups in the order above.

IF YOU OR FAMILY SUSPECT YOU MAY HAVE MEASLES, PLEASE DO NOT COME IN. CALL THE SURGERY FOR ADVICE. WE HAVE A STRICT PROCESS IN PLACE FOR SEEING PATIENTS WHO MAY HAVE AN INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Links

Measles information for contacts

<http://www.rollestonhealth.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/Community-Public-Health-Information-for-people-who-may-have-been-in-contact-with-measles.pdf>

Measles/MMR vaccination information

<http://www.immune.org.nz/hot-topic/measles-overseas-and-new-zealand>