

Thursday 6 February 2020

INFANT TRAVELLER LATEST MEASLES CASE

An infant traveller from overseas has become the 10th confirmed case of measles in NSW this year.

The infant, who was too young to receive their routine measles vaccine, spent time in Randwick, Eastgardens and Coogee while infectious, before the diagnosis was suspected:

- Wednesday 29 January from 10am to 1:30pm - Eastgardens Shopping Centre
- Thursday 30 January from 4pm to 6pm - Bat Country Café, St Paul's Road, Randwick
- Friday 31 January from 9:30am to 2pm - Centennial Park Children's Playground
- Monday 3 February from approximately 11am to 1pm - Royal Hotel Randwick and from 5pm to 6pm - Maloney's Grocer, 214 Coogee Bay Road

South Eastern Sydney Deputy Director of Public Health, Dr Vicky Sheppeard, said none of the locations visited by the infant pose an ongoing risk.

Infants, pregnant women and people with compromised immune systems who were at these locations at the same time as the infant should contact the public health unit on 1300 066 055 as soon as possible to determine if protective antibodies are required.

It can take up to 18 days for symptoms to appear following exposure to a person with measles so people in the locations above at the same time as the infant should be alert for symptoms until 21 February.

"Symptoms to watch out for include fever, sore eyes, runny nose and a cough followed three or four days later by a red, blotchy rash that spreads from the head to the rest of the body," Dr Sheppeard said.

"Anyone who develops symptoms of measles should phone their GP to ensure they don't wait alongside other patients before seeing their doctor.

"The measles-mumps-rubella vaccine is safe and effective protection against measles."

"It's free for anyone born during or after 1966 who hasn't already had two doses. If you're unsure whether you've had two doses, it's safe to have another."

Measles is highly contagious and is spread in the air through coughing or sneezing by someone who is unwell with the disease.

While the risk of infection is low in fully-vaccinated people, health experts urge anyone who comes into contact with someone who has measles to remain alert for symptoms.

If symptoms develop they should limit their exposure to others and seek medical care.

South Eastern Sydney Local Health District

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Protecting children from potentially deadly diseases is a key priority for the NSW Government, which has invested approximately \$130 million in the 2019-20 Immunisation Program budget, including Commonwealth and state vaccines.

For more information on measles visit:

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/measles/Pages/key-facts.aspx>