

# MEASLES ALERT

Information for NSW Pharmacists

H23/25056

1. There has been an infant infected with measles with no known source and no history of recent travel
2. The infant has spent time in a large number of locations in South Western Sydney, Western Sydney and Penrith
3. Consider measles in anyone with fever, cough, conjunctivitis or rash.
4. Measles is a highly contagious illness, and it is essential that potential cases remain isolated from other people.

## Measles in NSW

- The infant is too young to be routinely vaccinated against measles.
- At this stage of the investigation, the infant has no history of overseas travel or known contact with the recent measles case in Western Sydney, indicating that measles is now circulating in the community.
- This is the first case of locally acquired measles in New South Wales since 2019.
- Measles cases associated with international travel have recently been reported in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Queensland and New Zealand.
- The risk of measles cases occurring in NSW is increasing.

## How does measles present?

- A 2-4 day prodromal illness with fever, cough, coryza, and conjunctivitis.
- A maculopapular rash then typically begins on the face and neck and then spreads down the body.
- Measles in previously vaccinated people may present atypically, with milder symptoms and a slower progression to the rash.
- Cases are usually infectious from the day before the prodrome to four days after the rash onset.
- It can take up to 18 days for symptoms to appear following exposure to a person with measles.

## How to manage suspected cases

- **Isolate:** measles is a highly contagious illness. Ensure that the patient or carer is aware that this could potentially be a highly contagious disease and ask them to stay isolated from others.
- **Refer:** call ahead to their local General Practitioner or Emergency Department to inform them of your suspicion and ask them if the person can be reviewed as soon as possible for assessment and testing.

## Opportunistic measles vaccination

- Discussions prior to overseas travel are opportunities to encourage measles vaccination for any patients with uncertain measles vaccination histories.
- Eligible pharmacists can vaccinate those aged 12 years and over with the Measles-Mumps-Rubella vaccination.
- Please encourage carers of children from 6 months to 12 years to discuss Measles vaccination with their General Practitioner before travelling overseas.

## Further Information:

- Measles travel posters and other resources for your clinic are available from the NSW Health measles page: [www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/measles](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/measles)