



# Safety Information 002/12

**31 August 2012**

**Distributed to:**

- Chief Executives
- Directors of Clinical Governance

**We recommend you inform:**

- Medical Directors
- Directors of Nursing
- Infection control professionals
- Staff in Paediatric units
- Staff in NICU
- Staff in Recovery Rooms
- Staff in Operating Theatres
- Staff in ICU
- Staff in Emergency Departments
- Staff in Transplant Wards
- Staff in Oncology wards

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## Measles Outbreak

### What You Need to Know about Measles

A measles outbreak continues in Sydney with a risk of spread to other areas of NSW.

Measles can be VERY SERIOUS, especially for vulnerable infants.

More than 75 cases of measles have been notified in NSW since April, including 21 cases reported in infants less than 1 year of age, who are too young to be vaccinated.

### Clinical symptoms and signs

Measles presents with a 2-4 days of prodromal illness with moderate to high fever, cough, coryza and conjunctivitis.

A maculo-papular rash then typically begins on the face and neck and becomes generalised, and the fever continues.

Measles cases are highly infectious from the day before the prodrome illness to 4 days after the onset of the rash.

### Management

**Isolate** suspected cases immediately.

**Notify** your local Public Health Unit (PHU) immediately; don't wait for test results before calling.

**Test** for measles. Collect blood for measles serology, a nose and throat specimen on a viral transport swab for culture, and a first pass urine sample (~50mL) for immunofluorescence. Mark as "urgent".

The PHU can advise on testing, infection control and help in managing contacts.

### Protect Others to reduce the Risk of Spread

#### Promote measles vaccination

- Advise routine vaccination of infants at 12 months and children at 4 years
- Others who may require vaccination include unimmunised people born during or after 1966, including those who may have received only one MMR vaccination
- Free MMR vaccine is available from GPs or other primary health care providers.
- Health care workers are at increased risk. Ensure that susceptible health care staff are also immunised (PD2011\_005).

#### Additional information:

Visit the NSW Health Measles website at:

<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/factsheets/infectious/measles.html>

Local Public Health Unit contact details can be found at

<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/publichealth/Infectious/phus.asp>

Information provided by Communicable Diseases Branch NSW Ministry of Health

### Suggested actions by Local Health Districts/Networks

1. Forward information to all appropriate areas for action, including those listed above.
2. Ensure a system is in place to document actions taken.