

# MEASLES ALERT

Information for NSW Emergency departments

*Please distribute this information to all staff*



Health

1. Two cases of measles have been detected in Sydney in the past fortnight.
2. Secondary cases are likely in the coming weeks.
3. Make sure you have triage measures to identify and isolate suspected measles cases

## Measles in NSW

- Two cases of measles have been reported in Sydney in the past two weeks in persons with no epidemiological link. During their infectious periods the cases visited areas in the inner-west and western Sydney.
- Be aware that those who are too young to be vaccinated (<12 months), and those who have not received two doses of measles containing vaccine are at risk of infection.
- Suspect measles in people with fever and rash **irrespective** of travel history.

## How does measles present?

- Two to four days of prodromal illness with fever, cough, coryza, and conjunctivitis.
- A maculo-papular rash then typically begins on the face and neck and becomes generalised.
- Measles cases are infectious from the day before the prodrome illness to 4 days after the onset of rash.

## Maintain effective triage and case management

- **Isolate** - patients with fever and rash in a separate room on arrival.
- **Notify** - inform your public health unit (PHU) immediately about suspected cases – don't wait for test results before calling. The earlier a PHU knows about a suspected case the more effective containment interventions can be.
- **Test** - collect blood for measles serology, a nose and throat specimen, and a first pass urine sample for nucleic acid testing. Your PHU can assist in expediting testing, if indicated.
- An enhanced triage flow chart is available on the NSW Health measles website <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/Pages/Measles.aspx>
- **Continue** to display travel posters and measles posters and be on the look out for new imports following holiday travel: <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/diseases/Pages/MERS-travel-poster.aspx> and <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/Pages/Measles.aspx>

## Further Information:

- Contact your local public health unit on **1300 066 055**
- NSW Measles control guidelines: <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/controlguideline/Pages/measles.aspx#14>

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Vicky Sheppard'.

Dr Vicky Sheppard  
Director, Communicable Diseases Branch

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