

Friday 13 September 2019

## Measles alert – Northern Beaches

Northern Sydney Local Health District (NSLHD) is urging people to stay alert for symptoms of measles following a second case of measles diagnosed on the Northern Beaches. This case is linked to a case in a young man who became unwell earlier this month after returning from Queenstown, New Zealand.

While infectious, the case attended a local high school. The public health unit has followed up with the school to prevent further spread.

NSLHD Public Health Unit Director Dr Michael Staff said the case also visited a number of locations whilst infectious on Tuesday 10 September.

The locations included:

- Northern Beaches Hospital between 8am and 8.45am
- Warringah Mall shopping centre between 3.30pm and 5pm
- Travelled on 193 Bus to Warringah Mall at approximately 3.15 pm
- Travelled on 280 Bus from Warringah Mall to Allambie Heights between approximately 5pm and 5.30pm

People who were at the above locations at the times mentioned should be alert for measles symptoms until Sunday 29 September 2019.

Dr Staff said none of the locations visited by this person pose an ongoing risk.

“It can take up to 18 days for symptoms to appear following exposure to a person with measles. Anyone who develops symptoms should arrange to see their GP and call ahead to ensure they don’t wait alongside other patients,” Dr Staff said.

“Symptoms to watch out for include fever, sore eyes 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.”

Measles is a vaccine preventable disease that is spread through the air when someone who is infectious with the disease coughs or sneezes.

NSW Health makes the measles vaccine available free for infants from six months of age, and anyone born during or after 1966 who doesn’t have two documented doses of measles vaccine.

“If you’re unsure whether you’ve been vaccinated against measles in the past, it’s safe to have a dose,” he said.

For further information please see <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/infectious/measles/Pages/default.aspx>