

MEASLES ALERT

Information for NSW Emergency Departments

Please distribute this information to all staff

H20/1596-3

1. **Measles is a risk for both travellers and local residents.**
2. **Locally-acquired measles cases have recently been reported in Sydney.**
3. **Consider measles in returning travellers with fever, and in anyone with fever and a maculopapular rash.**
4. **Isolate suspected measles cases and call Public Health on 1300 066 055.**

Measles in NSW

- There have been 6 measles cases notified since New Year's Eve and all are likely to have acquired their infections in Sydney. None were known contacts of recent cases.
- Most cases have been in young adults aged 20-34 years; some had been vaccinated.
- Maintain a high index of suspicion for measles in returning travellers with fever, and in anyone with fever and maculopapular rash.

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 becomes generalised.
- Measles in previously vaccinated people may present atypically, with milder symptoms and a slower progression to the rash.
- Cases are infectious from the day before the prodrome to four days after the rash onset.

How to manage suspected cases

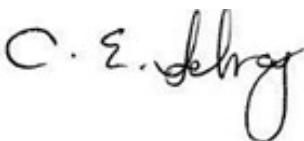
- **Isolate** – patients with fever and rash in a separate room on arrival.
- **Notify** – inform your public health unit (PHU) immediately – don't wait for test results before calling.
- **Test** – collect a nose and throat swab, and a first pass urine sample for nucleic acid testing (PCR) and blood for measles serology (IgM and IgG).
- Mark the tests requested as URGENT. Your PHU can assist in expediting testing.

Measles Resources for EDs

- See the NSW Health Measles website for information and resources:
<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/measles/>
- **Measles Is About** waiting room posters and brochures are available in multiple languages:
<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/measles/Pages/resources.aspx>

Further Information:

- Contact your local public health unit on **1300 066 055**.



Dr Christine Selvey

A/Director, Communicable Diseases
Health Protection NSW

9 January 2020