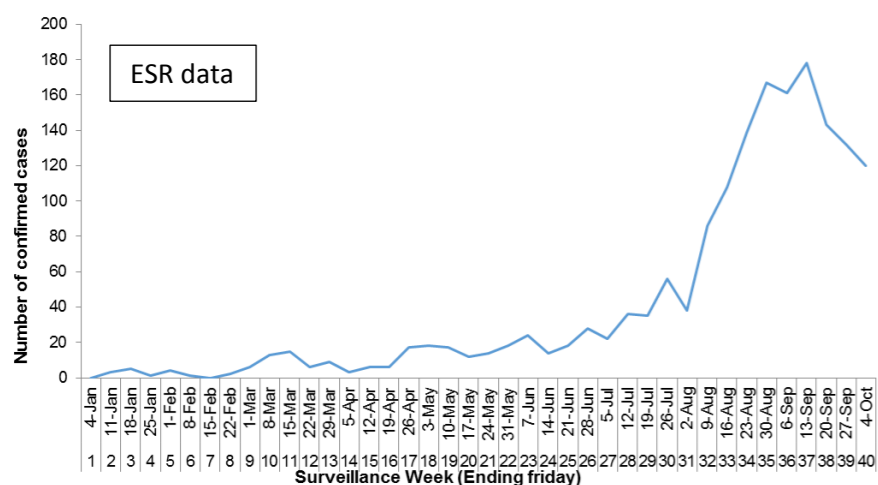


# National measles outbreak: Cabinet 14 October 2019

## Current national situation

Measles is a serious and highly infectious disease that in extreme cases can cause death. There continues to be a significant measles outbreak in New Zealand which began in March 2019 and is presently centred in Auckland. There are signs that the outbreak in Auckland is slowing down.



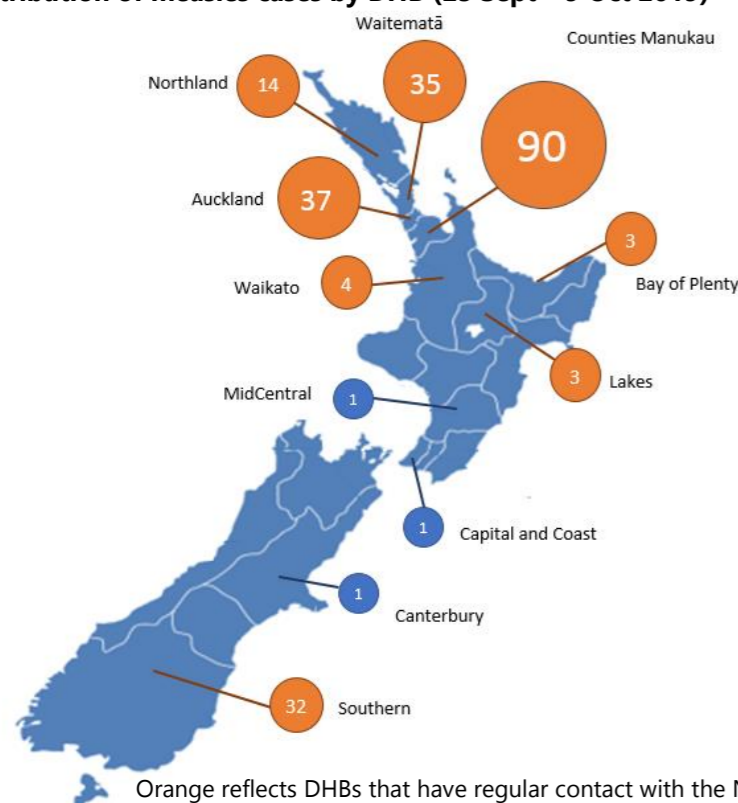
## The number of measles cases

**1731** Confirmed measles cases in New Zealand between 1 January – 9 October 2019

**227** Cases of measles reported in the past two weeks

In the past two weeks there have been an average of **16** new cases reported nationally daily

## Distribution of measles cases by DHB (25 Sept – 9 Oct 2019)



## Auckland remains a key focus

Auckland has the highest number of confirmed cases of measles in the current outbreak but the rate of new cases is easing off. A high proportion of cases are in the Counties Manukau DHB area. Around 1/3 of cases have been hospitalised with children two years and under accounting for a high proportion of these.

Area	Cases in last fortnight	Cases since 1 Jan 2019
Auckland region	162	1,409

The Waitematā, Auckland and Counties Manukau DHBs have taken a regional approach in responding to the measles outbreak in Auckland. Their initial focus has been to support the communities in South and West Auckland, where most cases are located. Counties Manukau set up outreach vaccination services and trained high school-based nurses to administer vaccines.

## Northland a key focus

There has been a significant number of importations from the Auckland region in recent weeks and an increase in cases in school-aged children.

Area	Cases in last fortnight	Cases since 1 Jan 2019
Northland region	14	72

Case management and contact tracing is ongoing.

A drop-in immunisation clinic has been set up in Whangarei for two days a week and an immunisation clinic has been set up in Kaitiā. Northland regional public health service will also be delivering opportunistic MMR with the HPV vaccination programme in schools. Low immunisation rates across the DHB are a concern.

## Southern a key focus

The number of cases is increasing in this region, and cases are predominately in the 18-40 year age group.

Area	Cases in last fortnight	Cases since 1 Jan 2019
Southern region	32	62

As confirmed cases are increasing, the response has been scaled up. Extra staff from outside the region are supporting the response.

Case management and contract tracing is ongoing.

## Other regions

Waikato, Bay of Plenty and, Lakes are also important areas of focus. All cases in these regions are linked to the Auckland outbreak. The NHCC is working with DHBs to manage cases and vaccine distribution in these areas.

Area	Cases in last fortnight	Cases since 1 Jan 2019
Waikato	4	39
Bay of Plenty	3	39
Lakes	3	22

## Our ongoing response

### National coordination and regional response

- The Ministry of Health activated the National Health Coordination Centre in Wellington on 30 August.
- In addition, the three Auckland DHBs, alongside Auckland Regional Public Health Service have set up a metro Auckland Incident Management Team. Northland, Lakes, Bay of Plenty, Waikato and Southern DHBs have stood up their Incident Management Teams. The NHCC has been in regular contact to support these DHBs as they manage their outbreak response.

### Prompt identification and isolation of cases

- Non-vaccination responses such as prompt identification, isolation, and follow-up of cases and their contacts are continuing and are most relevant outside Auckland.

### Vaccine supply and distribution

- In addition to the 52,000 doses that arrived on 15 September 2019, a further 107,520 doses arrived on the 4 October 2019. The Ministry of Health is working with DHBs to determine how to best manage and distribute this supply.
- As part of the distribution management strategy, PHARMAC is working closely with the Ministry of Health to confirm the arrival time for an additional 70,000 vaccines; when this is confirmed, all key stakeholders and response partners will be informed.

### Vaccinations

- The number of MMR vaccines administered (to 4 October 2019) on the National Immunisation Register has increased to 193,604 compared to 96,101 in 2018.

## Next steps

To ensure we address the outbreak in Auckland and manage spread to other areas as quickly as possible, the Ministry is acting on advice from its Expert Advisory Group (EAG) that the focus for vaccination be:

- Immunising those at 15 months (12 months in Auckland) and 4 years of age.
- Groups most impacted by the outbreak in Auckland, 15-29-year olds and Pacific people within these groups.
- Susceptible close contacts within 72 hours of first exposure.

This approach will help protect the health of those vaccinated and the wider community and minimise further spread of measles. The Ministry has asked primary care providers to focus on immunising these groups.

### MMR catch-up campaign

The EAG also advised that planning for a national catch up campaign should start as soon as possible, including planning for the MMR vaccine supply needed to support this. PHARMAC has started this process. The catch-up campaign will require consultation with the health sector so that implementation ensures equitable access to vaccination.

### Pharmacist vaccinators and the MMR vaccine

The Ministry is working rapidly to address a range of regulatory and other issues to enable pharmacists to administer MMR vaccines.