

Health Sector Update - 11 September 2019

With 1,172 cases of measles in New Zealand, 970 of which are in Auckland, the Ministry of Health is continuing to work closely with DHBs and other stakeholders to respond to the outbreak.

On the advice of an immunisation Expert Advisory Group, we need to ensure we are protecting our most vulnerable. As a result the Ministry of Health is providing guidance to general practices and PHOs to target measles vaccinations to priority groups.

This means the first priority for vaccinations should be on:

- ensuring all children across NZ receive their vaccines on time at 15 months (12 months of age in Auckland) and 4 years to maintain the national childhood immunisation schedule.
- vaccinating groups who are most affected by the outbreak in the Auckland area, namely children under 4 years of age, those aged 15-29 years with a focus on Pacific peoples within those groups.
- proactively contacting children aged up to 14 years who have not had a single dose of vaccine to get vaccinated.

You can help ensure measles vaccine is used to protect the most vulnerable populations by only vaccinating people from the groups listed above. We also ask staff at general practices and other clinics to keep vigilant about measles supplies at their clinics, for example in fridges, before ordering new stock.

Over 54,000 doses of measles vaccine were distributed last week. This is great news as it means the vaccine is out in communities where it is needed. Given the amount of orders last week, we expect most areas have supplies of vaccines they can call upon.

We appreciate your continued support – kia mihi.

More information is available on the [Ministry of Health website: www.health.govt.nz/measles-advice](http://www.health.govt.nz/measles-advice)
