



Sent by: s 9(2)(a) MOH

17/09/2019 01:57 p.m.

To: s 9(2)(a) @gpnz.org.nz, @nzcphm.org.nz, @nzma.org.nz, rnzcgp@rnzcgp.org.nz, s 9(2)(a) @auckland.ac.nz>

cc:  
bcc:

Subject: National Health Advisory NHCC Measles Response Update

## National Health Advisory National Health Coordination Centre Measles Response Update

### Received this email directly

- 1) GPNZ
- 2) RNZCGP
- 3) IMAC

This advisory has been sent separately to District Health Boards and Public Health Units

### **ACTIONS:**

1. Recipients from groups 1-3 (above) acknowledge the receipt of this e-mail to [nhcc\\_spoc@moh.govt.nz](mailto:nhcc_spoc@moh.govt.nz), other recipients need not acknowledge
2. Please forward as required within your organisation

### **ADVISORY SUMMARY:**

The current measles outbreak has created pressure across the health system, particularly in Auckland, and we thank you for your continuing work to protect the health of New Zealanders. There's been high demand for vaccination in recent weeks and our priority is to ensure that all children are able to be vaccinated on time, the Auckland outbreak is controlled, and outbreaks elsewhere are prevented through active management of isolated cases.

DHBs and the Ministry have worked closely over the past two weeks to actively manage MMR vaccine distribution, ensuring vaccine is available to meet the priorities above. This has caused some disruption to distribution. We sincerely thank all DHBs again for your ongoing patience and support.

### **Vaccine update**

52,000 vaccines arrived in the country yesterday, 16 September, and are being distributed this week. We'll continue to work closely with you to manage the distribution of stock to your DHB over coming weeks, so we can ensure the additional vaccines are going where they're needed most. Further stock has been allocated to New Zealand and PHARMAC is confirming delivery details. PHARMAC is also continuing to actively source more vaccine supplies.

### **Distribution**

To ensure that all children are able to be vaccinated on time, the Auckland outbreak is controlled, and outbreaks elsewhere are prevented through active management of isolated cases, the Ministry reiterates the focus on priority groups (detailed below).

We ask that DHBs actively work with PHO's and General Practices to continue to manage distribution and

give effect to this.

The Ministry is restocking each region to support vaccination of the above priority groups and is maintaining stocks centrally to continue to support priority groups over coming weeks and respond to any emerging issues.

### **Priority groups**

At this time the priority for MMR vaccinations should be:

#### *Auckland*

- ensure all children receive their MMR vaccinations on time at **12 months** and **4 years** to maintain the national Childhood Immunisation Schedule
- targeted community outreach managed by the three Auckland DHBs, namely groups who are most affected by the outbreak including 15-29 year olds and Pacific peoples within those groups.

#### *Rest of New Zealand*

- ensure all children receive their vaccinations on time at **15 months** and **4 years** to maintain the national Childhood Immunisation Schedule
- susceptible close contacts within 72 hours of first exposure to measles when possible.

### **Nominated single point of contact for overseeing managing vaccine distribution**

Your DHB will need to nominate a single point of contact to oversee the management of vaccine stock for providers offering childhood immunisations. Please inform your PHOs, PHUs and [NHCC\\_Operations@health.govt.nz](mailto:NHCC_Operations@health.govt.nz) of your DHB's nominated stock manager.

Details of your stock supply will be provided to your nominated stock manager.

Your DHB's nominated stock manager will need to work closely with your public health unit to allocate any vaccine needed for immunisation of susceptible close contacts, bearing in mind maintenance of the Childhood Immunisation Schedule is the priority.

#### Informing your PHOs and practices:

The Ministry is asking DHBs to share any relevant information with their PHOs and practices. Below are some paragraphs which you can use to inform your communications:

The current measles outbreak has created pressure across the health system, particularly in Auckland, and we thank you for your continuing work to protect the health of New Zealanders. Over the past two weeks, the Ministry of Health, PHARMAC and DHBs have managed distribution to ensure that MMR vaccine is available to meet priorities. To assist with this process, each DHB has been asked to nominate a single point of contact for stock management. The contact for [insert DHB name] is [SPOC].

We will keep working closely with regional distributors, PHOs and practices to manage the distribution of stock over the coming weeks, to ensure that vaccine stock is going to where it is needed most.

The Ministry reiterates the focus on priority groups (detailed below), to help continue the careful management of vaccine stock. We ask that general practice and PHOs reserve vaccine for these priority groups.

The priority for MMR vaccinations should be:

*Auckland*

- ensure all children receive their MMR vaccinations on time at **12 months** and **4 years** to maintain the national Childhood Immunisation Schedule
- targeted community outreach managed by the three Auckland DHBs, namely groups who are most affected by the outbreak including 15-29 year olds and Pacific peoples within those groups.

*Rest of New Zealand*

- ensure all children receive their vaccinations on time at **15 months** and **4 years** to maintain the national Childhood Immunisation Schedule
- susceptible close contacts within 72 hours of first exposure to measles when possible.

**You can help to ensure that MMR vaccine is used to protect the most vulnerable populations by only vaccinating people from the groups listed above.**

Non-priority groups:

For patients booked-in to receive MMR or who are eligible but don't meet the above priorities, we recommend that general practice include them on a recall list for when vaccine stock is sufficient. It's very important for all of the population to be protected and we don't want to lose the opportunity to offer MMR to all who are eligible. When stocks are secure, general practices should be offering two documented doses of MMR vaccine to those who need it at no cost, as per the New Zealand Pharmaceutical Schedule.

**RESPONSE TEMPLATE (groups 1-3 only) (MODIFY GROUPS TO RESPOND AS APPROPRIATE)**

On response please include the details below.

Organisation	
Name	
Confirmation cascade has/will occur	

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***This is an information/advisory only. No action is required other than to distribute as described.***

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**Emergency Management**  
Ministry of Health  
New Zealand

nhcc\_spoc@health.govt.nz