



SITREP 01
NATIONAL MEASLES OUTBREAK 2019
Issued: 1400 hrs, 21 AUGUST 2019

IN CONFIDENCE

New information in red text

Background

1. From 1 January 2019 to 21 August 2019 there have been 716 confirmed cases of measles notified across the country.
2. 584 of the 716 cases reported up to 21 August 2019 are in the Auckland region (81.6%).
3. Counties Manukau is the most affected area in Auckland, with 400 cases up to 21 August 2019.
4. There have been confirmed cases in other regions as a consequence of movement in and out of Auckland. The most recent cases have occurred in Canterbury, Northland, Hawkes Bay, Wellington, Taranaki and Southern regions. It is likely some cases may not be detected, spreading measles to other regions.
5. The highest number of cases are being reported in Māori and Pacific populations.
6. The most affected age groups are 0-4 years old and 15-29 years old.
7. The majority of cases have been in unvaccinated people or in those who don't know their vaccination status.
8. Approximately fifty percent of cases have been hospitalised. This proportion is higher than what has been seen in other outbreaks where approximately 30 percent have been hospitalised.
9. There have been no deaths associated with this outbreak.
10. Vaccination is not typically the first response for an outbreak of measles. This is because it takes 14 days to develop immunity in response to the vaccine. Measles spreads rapidly and will infect communities much faster than vaccine campaigns can be established and executed. Also to protect against developing the disease, the vaccine must be administered with 72 hours of the known contact.
11. Auckland Regional Public Health Service (ARPHS) are overwhelmed with notifications and are unable to perform intense contact tracing activities. They have moved into a management phase of the response. In this phase they are working to minimise the impact of measles by increasing vaccination coverage.

Situation

12. Cases of measles in Auckland are increasing rapidly. The below graph outlines the cumulative cases of measles reported in Auckland, and the percent increase in cases compared to the previous day.



Figure 1. Cases of measles to 21 August and percent increase in cases per day in the Auckland region

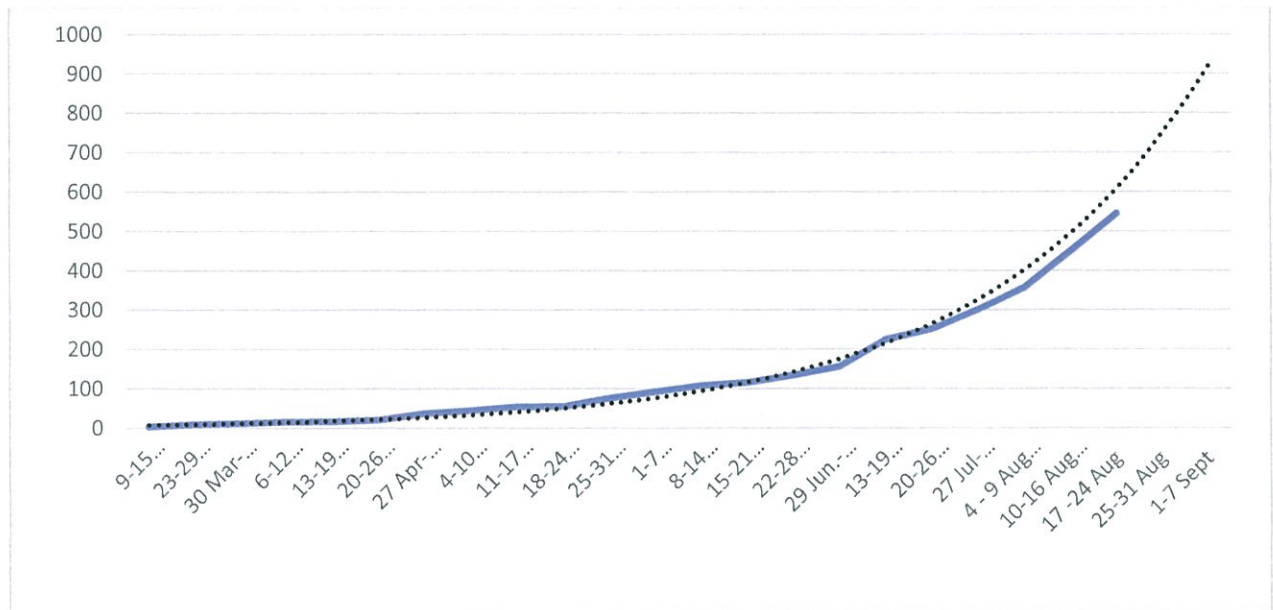


Figure 2. Exponential modelling of cases in Auckland per week up to 7 September

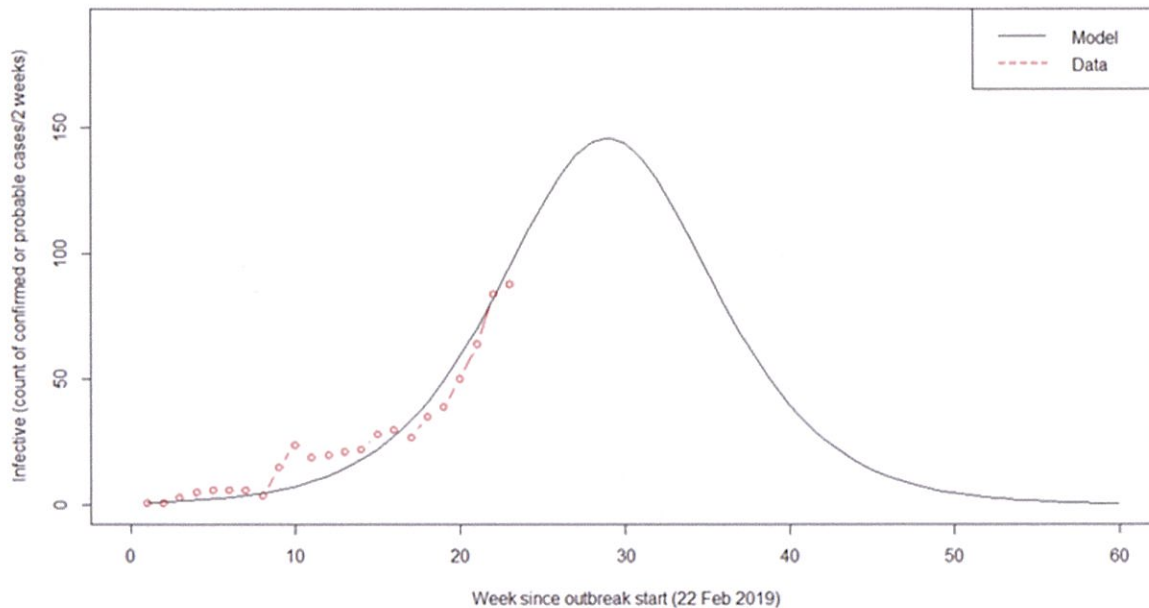


Figure 3. Mathematical modelling of measles outbreak in Auckland (current and expected)

13. All of the Northern DHBs have internal structures and processes in place for measles outbreak related activities. Isolation management policies are in place at all hospitals.
14. The DHBs continue to manage the ongoing pressures that all services are experiencing due to a wide range of issues and incidents. These include season flu, industrial action, IHT contract issues, staff absenteeism and general demand on services via emergency department.
15. Based on population data and the previously acknowledged immunity gap, it is estimated that approximately 20% of the under 30 population in Auckland is unimmunised against measles.
16. In Counties Manukau, this immunity rate translates to approximately 120,000 non-immune people in the area.

Key actions

Ministry

17. The Ministry of Health has created a Measles Project Team to respond to this outbreak.
18. The Measles Project Team is preparing a memo to the DG and Minister regarding the CMDHB proposal (below), including immediate, and medium/long term actions to address this outbreak.
19. The Ministry are working with ESR to align reporting and messaging of national measles cases in the Measles Weekly Report.
20. A technical advisory group is being convened to discuss the national situation for measles.

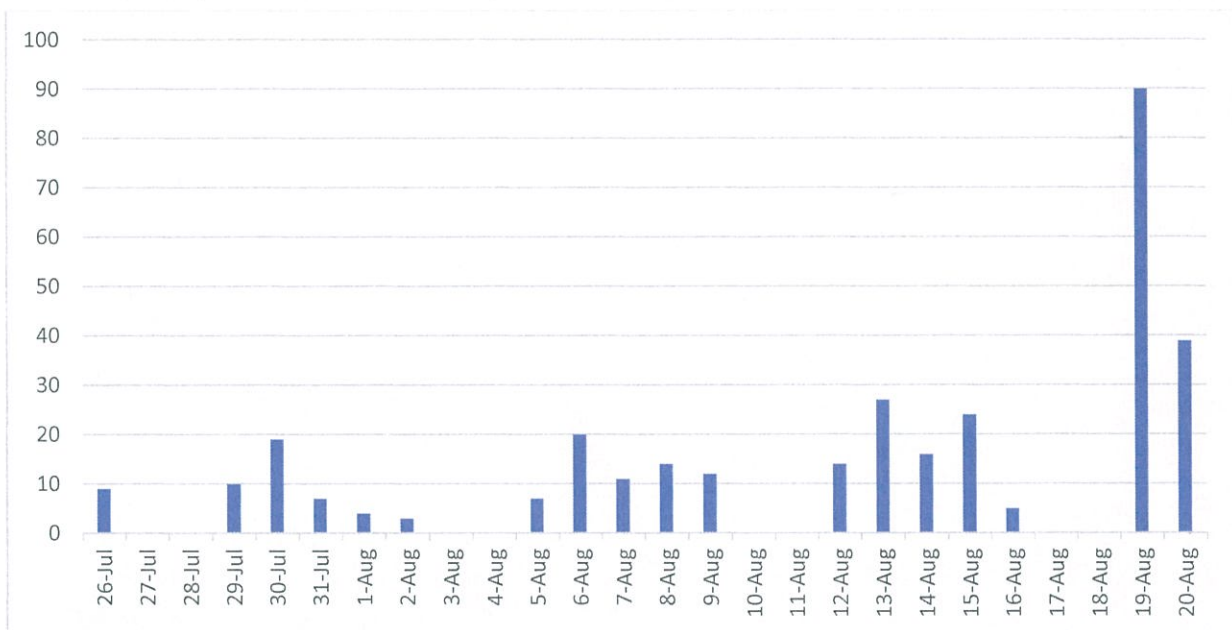
District Health Board

21. Counties Manukau submitted a proposal to the Ministry on 8 August regarding its response to the outbreak.
22. Preliminary discussions within the Ministry have begun regarding funding the CMDHB response to the outbreak.
23. Counties Manukau DHB (CMDHB) has put together a proposal to improve the immunity to measles of their population. This proposal included funding an additional 5 vaccinator nurses to deliver outreach services and opportunistic vaccination in Middlemore Hospital. The Ministry of Health has agreed to fund these nurses – a total of \$285,000.

24. A condition of this funding will be that CMDHB will provide reports to the Ministry detailing the targets and the evaluation of this campaign.
25. The Ministry will work closely with CMDHB to identify other avenues to increase the immunity of their vulnerable populations – particularly the 20-29-year old group which is hard to reach through traditional methods.
26. CMDHB has identified a population of approximately 11,000 Māori and Pacific people under 30 to target for vaccination, of the 120,000 non-immune people in the region.

Public Health Unit

27. ARPHS are experiencing service pressure. To date they have received 1426 notifications of potential measles cases. Below is a graph detailing the number of cases of measles confirmed per day. Please note that cases over the weekend are cumulatively notified to the Ministry on a Monday.



PHARMAC

28. PHARMAC provided an update as of COB Friday 16 August regarding MMR vaccine stock in Auckland. Since February 2019 a total of 17,020 doses of MMR vaccine have been distributed through Auckland.

Public Information Management / Media

29. On 20 August a Stuff article titled “‘Measles ward’ opens to manage three children admitted each day with the preventable disease” was published. This gave information on the ‘measles ward’ which has been created at Middlemore Hospital in Counties Manukau.

Next situation report

30. The next situation report will be via email at **1500** hrs on Friday 23 August.

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