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**Exception Report 01**  
**NATIONAL MEASLES OUTBREAK 2019**  
**Issued: 1200 hrs, 31 AUGUST 2019**

**IN CONFIDENCE**

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*New information in red text*

All information is current as of **0830hrs 31 August 2019**

### Situation

1. From 1 January 2019 to **31 August 2019** there have been **937** confirmed cases of measles notified across New Zealand (as at **0830hrs 31 August**) based on ESR reporting.
2. There is currently a significant measles outbreak in Auckland which commenced in March 2019. As at **0830hrs 31 August 2019**, there have been **778** confirmed cases of measles in this region – the majority of these have occurred in Counties Manukau District Health Board (CMDHB) (*Appendix 1*).
3. There have been **52** cases of measles in the Auckland DHB area since **Monday 26 August** (as at **31 August 2019**) (*Appendix 1*).
4. Sporadic cases continue to occur across the country, specifically in the Waikato and Northland areas.
5. Based on the National Immunisation Register, 47,398 doses of the MMR vaccine have been administered in the Auckland region from 1 February 2019 to 23 August 2019. This is an increase of 60% compared to the same time period in 2018.

### Key Messages

6. On Friday 30 August the Ministry of Health activated the National Health Coordination Centre (NHCC).
7. The purpose of the NHCC is to coordinate the health and disability sector response to an emergency event.
8. The NHCC is staffed by trained Ministry responders who work as part of an Incident Management Team operating under the Coordinated Incident Management System (CIMS).
9. The Ministry has been notified of the cancellation of the New Zealand Secondary Schools Rugby League tournament, which was to be held next week in South Auckland.
10. The Ministry is not currently recommending cancellation of major events, however event organisers are encouraged to work closely with their local DHB and consider the risks associated with the current measles outbreak to their participants.

## Public Information Management and Media

11. Media interest is high today (Saturday 31 August). This interest is expected to continue over the weekend and into next week.
12. Ministry of Health communications staff are on site in Wellington coordinating media requests and messaging, and working closely with DHB counterparts.
13. Auckland Regional Public Health Service are doing a press conference today (Saturday 31 August) at 1400hrs on the measles situation. Dr William Rainger (ARPHS) and Dr Carmel Ellis (CMDHB) will be available for interview. They will be providing information on the following;
  - Level of public health risk in the region
  - Advice on attending events and gatherings in Auckland
  - The National Health Coordination Centre
  - Vaccination opportunities in Counties Manukau District Health Board.
14. CMDHB have also worked with TVNZ for a crew to film this weekend at the drop in clinic at the Free Church of Tonga.
15. Auckland DHB have provided Pacific Health team members for interview on Pacific Radio 531PI.
16. Targeted social media activity is underway, with CMDHB working alongside social influencers in their community.
17. Communications activity will continue on Sunday 1 September, both in Wellington and in Auckland in support of Ministers and officials attending a significant but separate health announcement scheduled for 1230hrs.

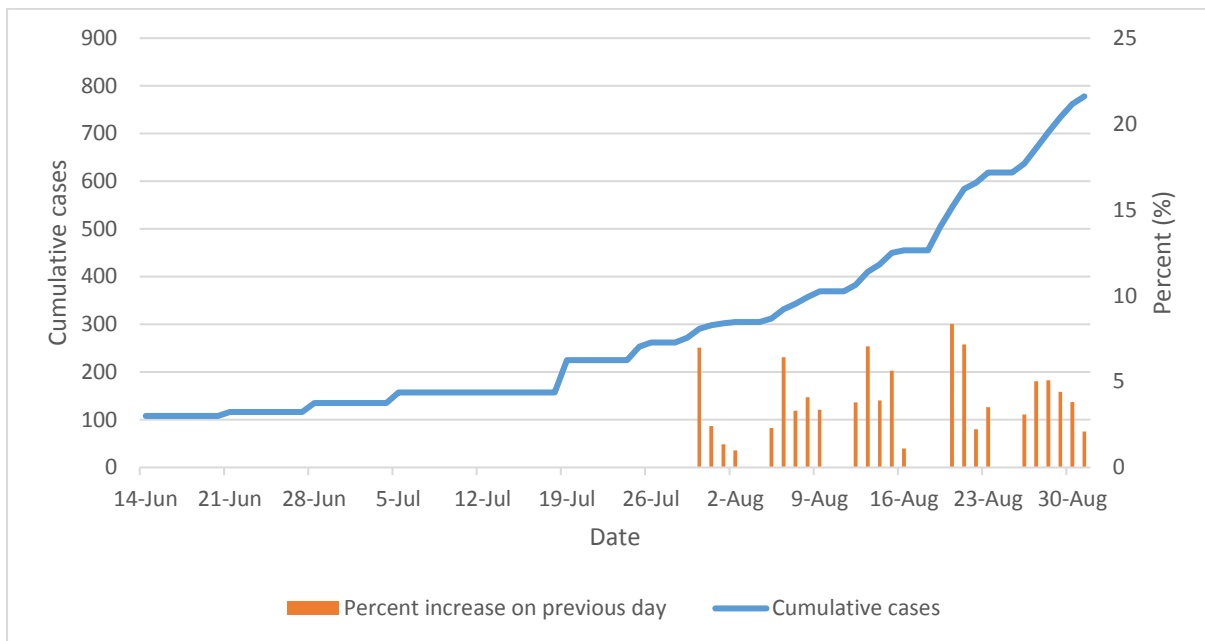
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**Prepared by:** Tara Swadi, Intelligence

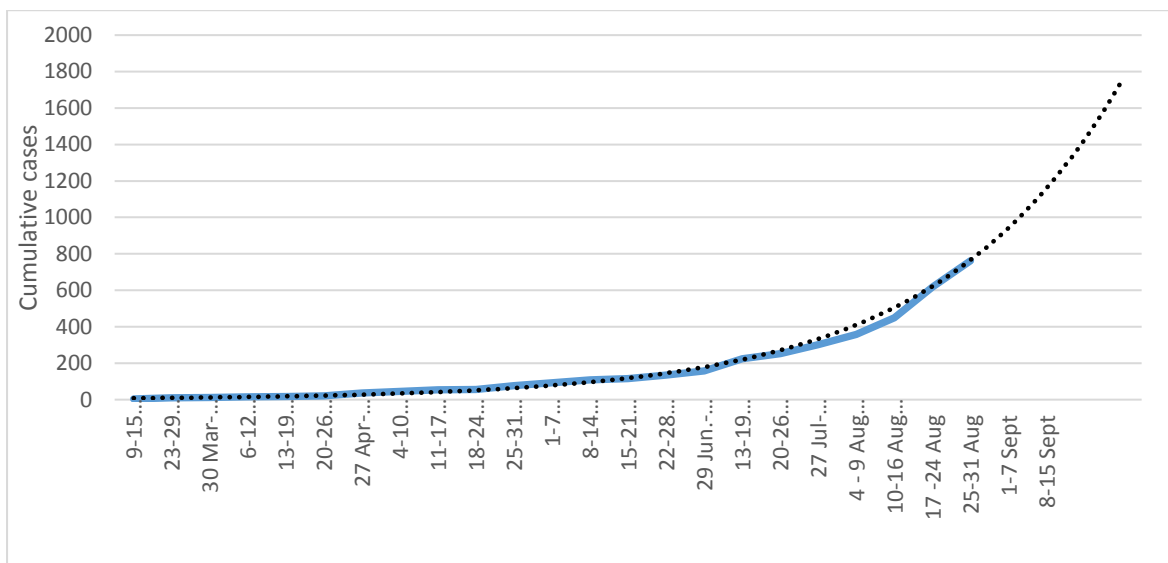
**Approved by:** Kath Blair, Response Manager

## Appendix 1

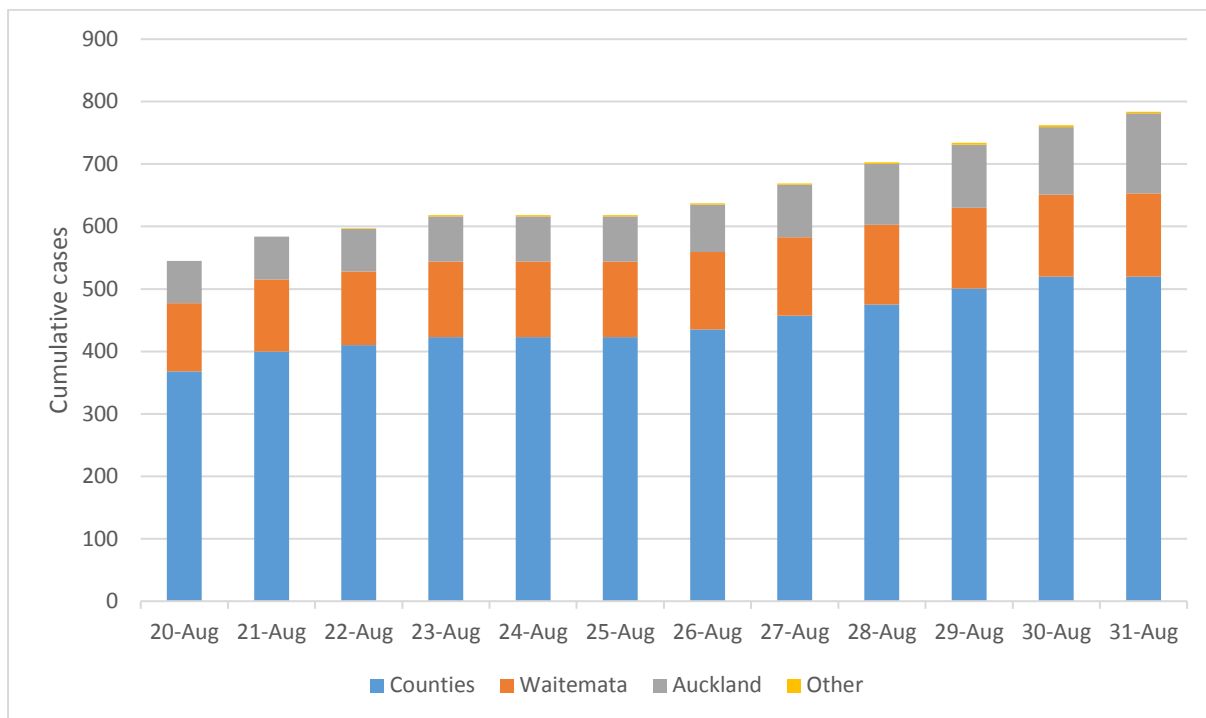
**Figure 1.** Cases of measles to 31 August and percent increase in cases per day in the Auckland region



**Figure 2.** Exponential modelling of cases in Auckland per week up to 15 September



**Figure 3.** Cases of measles per DHB in Auckland since 20 August



**Figure 4.** Number of cases of measles confirmed per day. *Please note that cases over the weekend are cumulatively notified to the Ministry on a Monday.*

