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**Exception Report 02**  
**NATIONAL MEASLES OUTBREAK 2019**  
**Issued: 1030 hrs, 1 SEPTEMBER 2019**

**IN CONFIDENCE**

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*New information in red text*

All information is current as of **0900hrs 1 September 2019**

### Situation

1. From 1 January 2019 to **1 September** 2019 there have been **959** confirmed cases of measles notified across New Zealand (as at **0900hrs 1 September**) based on **ESR reporting**.
2. There is currently a significant measles outbreak in Auckland which commenced in March 2019. As at **0900hrs 1 September** 2019, there have been **800** confirmed cases of measles in this region – **the majority of these** have occurred in Counties Manukau District Health Board (CMDHB) (*Appendix 1*). **This is an increase of 22 cases since the last report on Saturday 31 August.**
3. Sporadic cases continue to occur across the country, specifically in the Waikato and Northland areas. **Note, most regions do not report cases over the weekend. The number of cases in regions outside of Auckland will be reported on Monday 2 September.**
4. 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

5. On Friday 30 August the Ministry of Health activated the National Health Coordination Centre (NHCC).
6. The purpose of the NHCC is to coordinate the health and disability sector response to an emergency event.
7. 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).
8. 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.
9. At this stage the Ministry is not 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

10. **Media interest continues to be strong today (Sunday 1 September). This interest is expected to continue into next week.**

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11. There have been multiple stories in the mainstream media, in print, online and over broadcast, including both major television bulletins on Saturday evening.
12. The Herald's Sunday feature is on measles, with a strong front page letter from Starship clinician Dr Mike Shepherd. The project was coordinated by ADHB and ARPHS.
13. At 1400hrs on Saturday 31 August, Dr William Rainger from Auckland Regional Public Health Service gave a press conference, which reiterated the messaging coming from the Ministry of Health.
14. Media interest centres on the number of confirmed cases, measles at school, and measles at major sporting events, particularly those that involve children.
15. Communications and measles messaging will continue to be available today (Sunday 1 September) including support for Ministers and officials attending the cancer plan announcement in Auckland.
16. Plunket are planning a Facebook Live event for Monday 2 September at 2000hrs, which will feature Nikki Turner from the Immunisation Advisory Centre (IMAC) discussing measles and answering questions.
17. Healthline have reported a 72% increase in calls related to measles in August 2019 compared to August 2018.
18. Phone calls to 0800 IMMUNE (IMAC phone line) more than doubled on 29 and 30 August.
19. In the coming week there will be clinical media briefings in Auckland on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, coordinated by ADHB. Ministry staff will continue to be available in Wellington for oversight and for interviews.
20. All agencies, including the Ministry, will continue to focus on joined up messaging, shared communications and exploring ways to proactively push vaccination and health awareness.

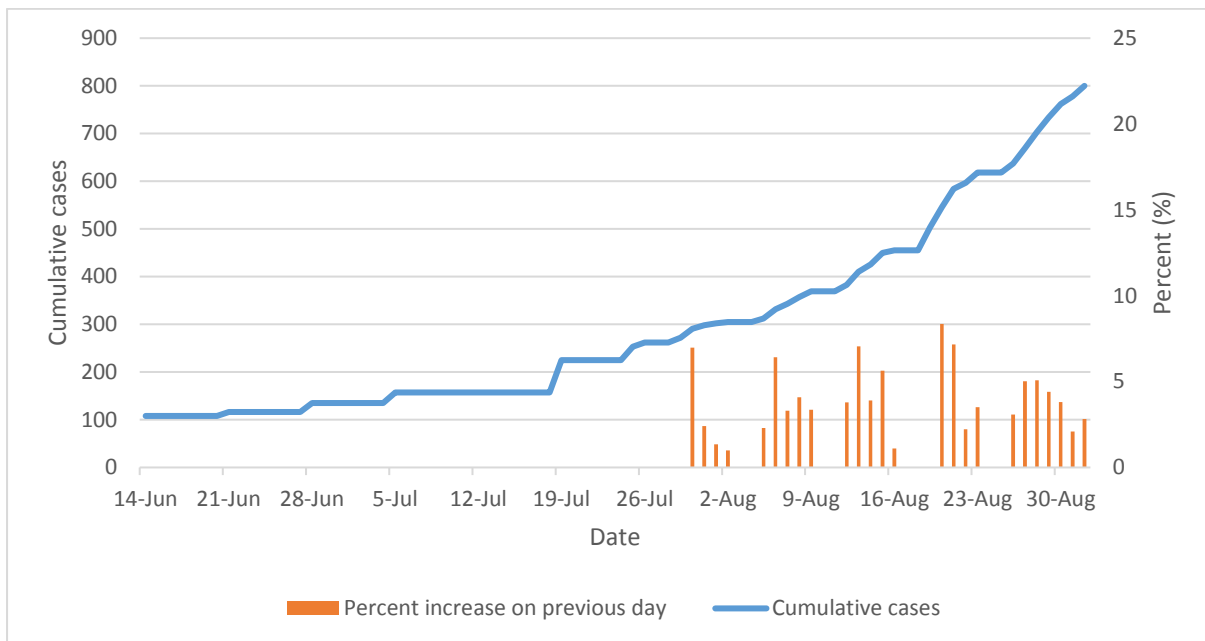
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**Prepared by:** Tara Swadi, Intelligence

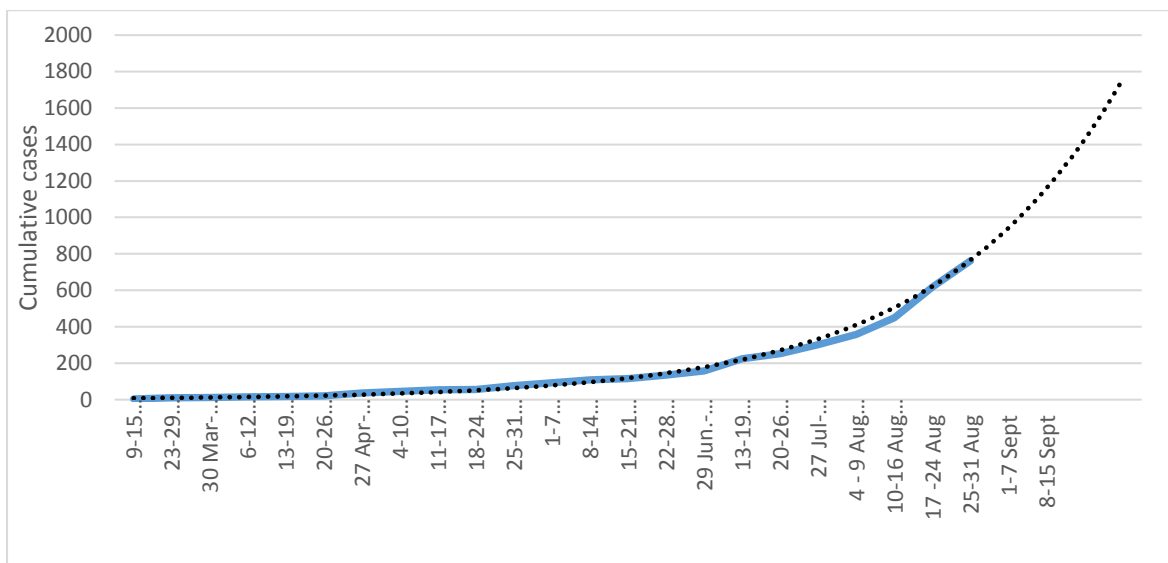
**Approved by:** Kath Blair, Response Manager

## Appendix 1

**Figure 1.** Cases of measles to 1 September 2019 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



**NOTE:** The increase in 'other' cases on 1 September is due to laboratory notifications of measles not being classified by DHB when notified over the weekend. These will be classified to DHBs in the coming days.

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

