



## SITREP 06

# NATIONAL MEASLES OUTBREAK 2019

Issued: **1500 hrs, 2 SEPTEMBER 2019**

**IN CONFIDENCE**

*New information in red text*

All information is current as of **1300hrs 2 September 2019**

### Situation

1. From 1 January 2019 to **2 September** 2019 there have been **963** confirmed cases of measles notified across New Zealand (*as at 1300hrs 2 September*) (*Appendix 1*).
2. There is currently a significant measles outbreak in Auckland which commenced in March 2019. As at **2 September** 2019, there have been **804** confirmed cases of measles in this region – **556** of which have occurred in Counties Manukau District Health Board (CMDHB) (*Appendix 2*). *This is an increase of 4 cases since Exception Report 02 provided on Sunday 1 September. These numbers may change based on reclassification during the week.*
3. *Information is currently being sourced from the Institute of Environmental Science and Research (ESR) database, EpiSurv. This is the national database for notifiable diseases.*
4. Laboratory analysis of measles cases shows that the outbreak in Auckland is actually several outbreaks caused by several different genotypes of the virus.
5. The Auckland outbreaks began in West Auckland but are now mainly occurring in South Auckland, Counties Manukau. In South Auckland, the cases have been mainly in the 0–4 and 20–29 year age groups and predominately in the Pacific population.
6. There have been **31** cases of measles in ADHB in the last **week** (*as at 2 September 2019*) (*Appendix 2*).
7. Fifty percent of cases have been hospitalised. This proportion is higher than previous New Zealand outbreaks where approximately 30 percent have been hospitalised. There are no clear reasons to account for this increase in hospitalisation.
8. The majority of cases have been in unvaccinated people or in those who don't know their vaccination status.
9. Public Health Units outside of Auckland are being encouraged to manage measles cases and their contacts as per protocol, with isolation, contact tracing and quarantine to stop the spread of disease. Cases outside of Auckland are all currently linked to travel to or from the Metropolitan Auckland area.
10. Currently there are no issues or concerns with vaccine supply.
11. From 1 February 2019 to 31 August, 68,610 doses of the MMR vaccine have been distributed in the Auckland region.

12. Based on the National Immunisation Register, 50,639 doses of the MMR vaccine have been administered in the Auckland region from 1 February 2019 to 30 August 2019. 35,222 doses were given in the Auckland region from 1 January 2018 to 30 August 2018. This is an increase of 44%.
13. MMR vaccine uptake has increased by 24% in Pacific people in the Auckland region from 1 February 2019 to 23 August 2019 compared to the same time period in 2018.
14. MMR vaccine uptake has increased by 42% in Māori in the Auckland region from 1 February 2019 to 23 August 2019 compared to the same time period in 2018.
15. MMR vaccine uptake has increased by 108% in New Zealand Europeans in the Auckland region from 1 February 2019 to 23 August 2019 compared to the same time period in 2018.
16. In Counties Manukau there has been a 25.7% increase in the number of children aged 10 months – 20 months receiving their first MMR vaccine from May 2019 to 23 August 2019, compared to same time period in 2018.
17. There have been no deaths associated with this outbreak.

### Key Actions

#### *Auckland Region District Health Boards and Public Health Unit*

18. The Auckland region have put in place a number of strategies to increase the population immunity against measles:
  - lowering the age of the first MMR vaccine in the Auckland region from age 15 months to 12 months
  - active recall of children who have not been vaccinated
  - opportunistic vaccination of older children and young adults when attending primary care
  - using outreach services to contact 'hard to reach' children
  - opportunistic vaccination at large medical centres and after hours clinics in Counties Manukau
  - public messaging on the outbreak about who is at risk and how to get vaccinated.
19. Auckland Regional Public Health Service are working with local organisations regarding major events. They are also working with Mangere Refugee Resettlement Centre to protect the vulnerable population there.
20. In response to the rising numbers of measles cases in Auckland, particularly in young Pacific populations in Counties Manukau, the Ministry has worked closely with CMDHB and ARPHS to finalise and implement a vaccination programme proposal.
21. Particular effort is being made to vaccinate children, Pacific people, and those aged between 15 and 29 in the Auckland region to minimise the impact of this outbreak. Those outside of this region should follow the National Immunisation Schedule, except babies 12 months or older who are travelling to Auckland, who can bring their first MMR vaccination, usually given at 15 months, forward to 12 months.
22. Data on outreach vaccination has been provided by CMDHB (*Appendix 3*). Updated data for the weekend will be provided in the next SITREP.

## *Ministry of Health*

23. On Friday 30 August the Ministry of Health activated the National Health Coordination Centre (NHCC).
24. The purpose of the NHCC is to coordinate the health and disability sector response to an emergency event.
25. 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).
26. The Institute of Environmental Science and Research (ESR) are part of this structure and will work within the response team to provide intelligence on measles cases across the country.
27. 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.
28. Auckland Regional Public Health Service are working with local organisations regarding major events. They are also working with Mangere Refugee Resettlement Centre to protect the vulnerable population there.
29. Vaccination is available to those under 50 years of age for free at any GP. There are also drop-in clinics in Auckland Monday to Friday from 9am till 4pm at Clendon Shopping Centre in Manurewa and at the Manukau SuperClinic in Manukau daily from 9am till 4pm. Middlemore Hospital Emergency Department are also doing opportunistic vaccination, however the general public are not encouraged to attend ED just for a vaccination. CMDHB has now set up a webpage which will be regularly updated with the latest information on where and when people can get vaccinated.  
<https://countiesmanukau.health.nz/for-patients-and-visitors/measles/>
30. The Ministry will be convening a meeting with an expert advisory group in the next day to obtain advice on any additional activities that need to be undertaken in response to the measles outbreak.
31. The expert advisory group will meet again on 10 September to consider actions that could be implemented by the end of the year.
32. Vaccine availability, impact on existing services and cost implications will be taken into consideration for all options.
33. The initial notification to the WHO of a measles outbreak centred on the Canterbury region was sent on 15 March 2019. An updated notification including the situation in Auckland and other regions was sent 22 August 2019. An Event Information Site posting went live yesterday on the World Health Organization website detailing information on the measles outbreak in New Zealand.
34. The Ministry is currently working with CMDHB, ARPHS, and ESR to finalise reporting processes and SITREP distribution. A SITREP from the Ministry collating all this information will be provided by 1500hrs on Monday, Wednesday and Friday until further notice. An executive summary will be provided with the most up to date case numbers by 1100hrs every day.

35. Other inputs which are informing the response include the National Immunisation Register data, vaccine supply data from PHARMAC, and data from Healthline, 0800 IMMUNE, and Plunketline on call volumes.
36. A daily teleconference with ARPHS, ADHB, CMDHB, Waitemata DHB, and the Ministry has been set up in order to ensure key actions are being communicated.

### **Public Information Management / Media**

37. The Ministry website has been updated with a call-to-action stating “There are currently outbreaks of measles in New Zealand. Immunisation is your best protection against measles and the MMR vaccine is available free from your GP. Make sure you and your whānau are protected - if you are under 50 years and have never had a measles vaccine get vaccinated today.”
38. Views on the Ministry of Health measles webpage has increased significantly in the past week. Since 23 August there have been 19,639 hits on all measles related webpages.
39. A Health Advisory was released on 27 August with information for those travelling to Auckland. The advisory contained the advice that infants who will be travelling to Auckland should receive an MMR vaccine at 12 months, and this should be done 2 weeks prior to travel.
40. A Health Advisory was sent out to the sector informing them that the NHCC has been stood up in response to measles.
41. Media interest was high over the weekend, and is expected to continue during the week.
42. There have been multiple stories in the mainstream media, in print, online and over broadcast, including both major television bulletins on Saturday evening.
43. Stuff have an interactive report on their front page today (2 September) relating to falling immunisation rates in New Zealand. A similar article was published in the Dominion Post today titled “Misinformation by stealth”.
44. Dr William Rainger from Auckland Regional Public Health Service and representatives from CMDHB will be giving press conferences at 1400hrs on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday this week.
45. Media interest centres on the number of confirmed cases, measles at school, and measles at major sporting events, particularly those that involve children.
46. 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.
47. Healthline report continued pressure on their phone lines.
48. IMAC now plan to operate their 0800 IMMUNE phone lines next weekend due to excessive demand.
49. All agencies, including the Ministry, will continue to focus on joined up messaging, shared communications and exploring ways to proactively push vaccination messages and health awareness.

**Next situation report**

50. The next report will be an executive summary via email at **1100** hrs on **Tuesday 3 September** 2019.

51. The next situation report will be via email at **1500** hrs on **Wednesday 4 September** 2019.

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**Prepared by:** Tara Swadi, Intelligence

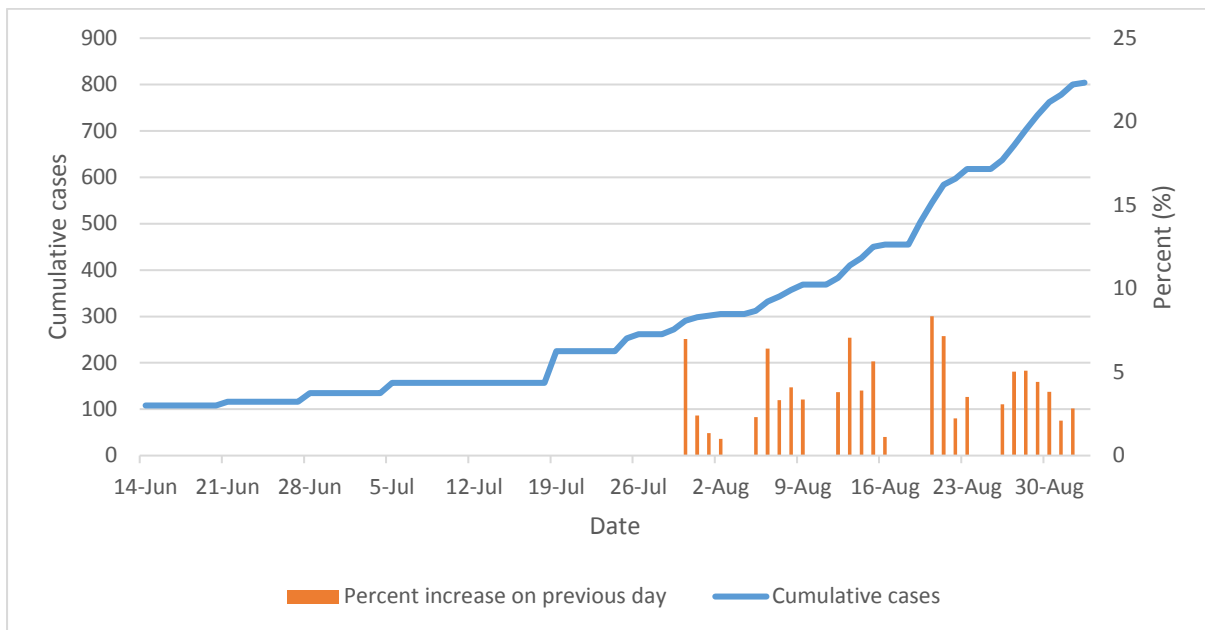
**Approved by:** Kath Blair, Response Manager

## Appendix 1. Cases per DHB in New Zealand

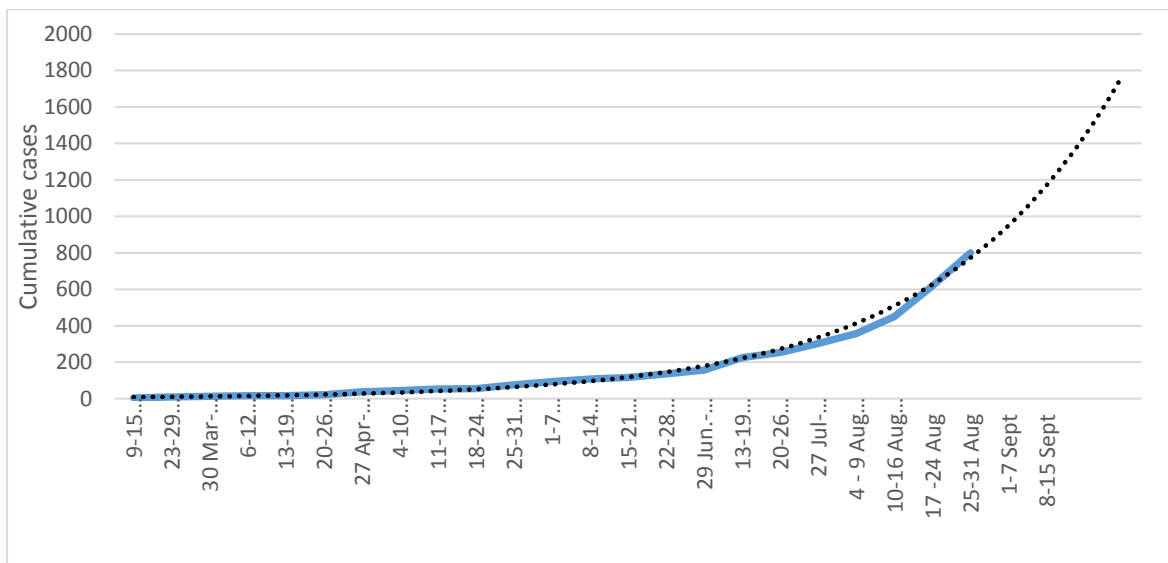
<b>DHB</b>	<b>Cumulative Cases - 1 January 2019 to 2 September 2019</b>	<b>Cases in the last 14 days (19 August to 2 September)</b>	<b>Status</b>
Northland	<b>28</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Sporadic cases</b>
Waitemata	<b>139</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>Outbreak ongoing</b>
Auckland	<b>107</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>Outbreak ongoing</b>
Other Akl	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Outbreak ongoing</b>
Counties Manukau	<b>556</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>Outbreak ongoing</b>
Waikato	<b>22</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Sporadic cases</b>
Lakes and Bay of Plenty	<b>35</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Sporadic cases</b>
Tairāwhiti	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Taranaki	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Sporadic cases</b>
Hawke's Bay	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Sporadic cases</b>
Whanganui	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
MidCentral	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Sporadic cases</b>
Hutt Valley	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Sporadic cases</b>
Capital and Coast	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Sporadic cases</b>
Wairarapa	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Sporadic cases</b>
Nelson Marlborough	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
West Coast	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Canterbury	<b>41</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Sporadic cases, previous outbreak declared over</b>
South Canterbury	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Sporadic cases</b>
Southern	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Sporadic cases</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>963</b>	<b>285</b>	

## Appendix 2

**Figure 1.** Cases of measles to 2 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

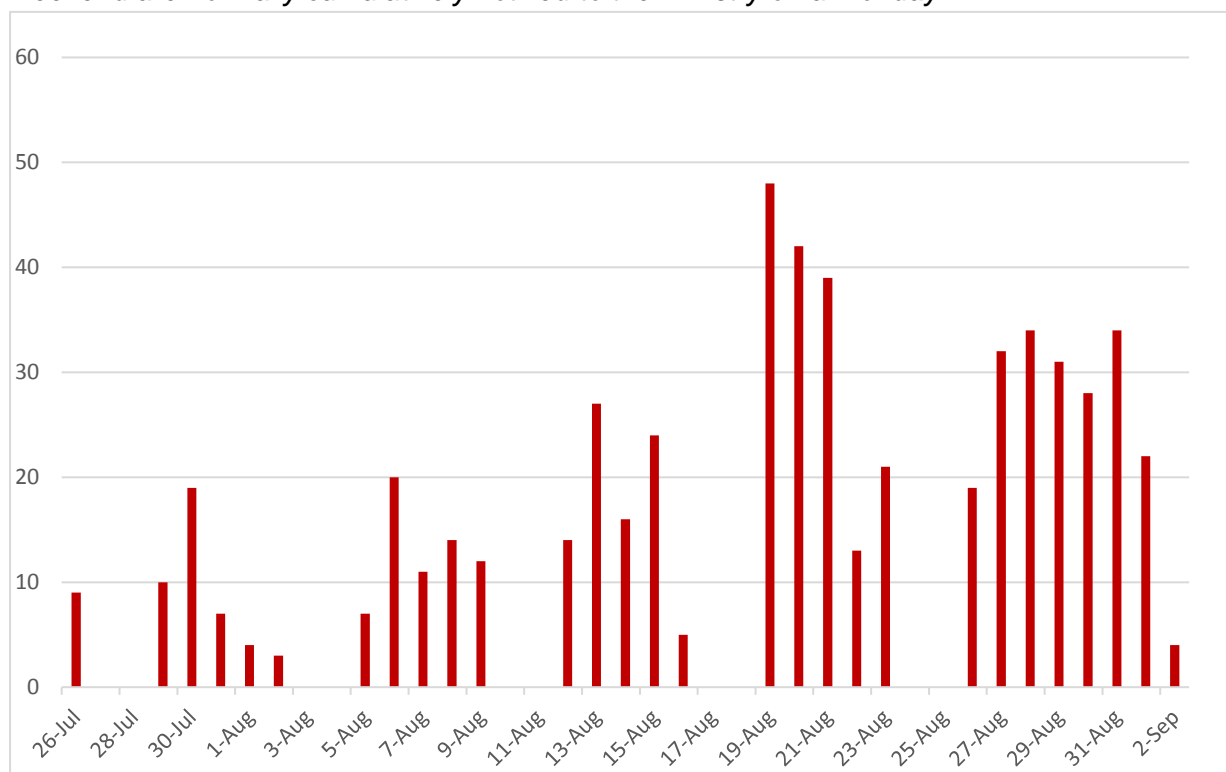


**Figure 3.** Cases of measles per DHB in Auckland since 20 August



**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.

**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.





### Appendix 3. CMDHB vaccination clinic daily data

HEALTH TRACKING & REPORTING (as at 1000 Friday 30/8/19)

1. Vaccination Clinic Daily Data - Middlemore Hospital Opportunistic Vaccination Clinic ED

Date (Date/time of clinic operations)	Number of vaccines administered 0-4yrs			Number of vaccines administered 5-14 years			Number of vaccines administered 15-29 years			Number of vaccines administered 29+ years			Total	Adverse Event Reported (Y/N and detail)
	Maori	Pacific	Other	Maori	Pacific	Other	Maori	Pacific	Other	Maori	Pacific	Other		
23/09/19					1		2	2		1	3		9	N
24/9/19					1		1	3			2	8	15	N
25/8/19								6	1	1	1	2	11	N
26/8/19						1	3		2	2		1	9	N
27/8/19					1			1	3			3	8	N
28/8/19						1		7	2		3	1	14	N
29/8/19							3			2	3		8	N
<b>TOTAL:</b>													<b>74</b>	

2. Outreach Clinics Daily Data – Outreach / MSC

Date (Date/time of clinic operations)	Number of vaccines administered 0-4yrs			Number of vaccines administered 5-14 years			Number of vaccines administered 15-29 years			Number of vaccines administered 29+ years			Total	Adverse Event Reported (Y/N and detail)
	Maori	Pacific	Other	Maori	Pacific	Other	Maori	Pacific	Other	Maori	Pacific	Other		
23/8/19	2	1	0										3	
24/8/19	3	7	4										14	
26/8/19	3	2	0				1	2		1			9	
27/8/19	2	2	0					6			1		11	
28/8/19	Data pending													
29/8/19														
<b>TOTAL:</b>													37	

3.Outreach Clinics Daily Data - <Clendon> Commencing 30/8/19

Date (Date/time of clinic operations)	Number of vaccines administered 0-4yrs			Number of vaccines administered 5-14 years			Number of vaccines administered 15-29 years			Number of vaccines administered 29+ years			Total	Adverse Event Reported (Y/N and detail)
	Maori	Pacific	Other	Maori	Pacific	Other	Maori	Pacific	Other	Maori	Pacific	Other		
28/8/19	Data pending													
29/8/19														
<b>TOTAL:</b>														