



SITREP 10

NATIONAL MEASLES OUTBREAK 2019

Issued: **1500 hrs, 11 SEPTEMBER 2019**

IN CONFIDENCE – NOT FOR FURTHER DISTRIBUTION

New information in red text

All information is current as of **1300hrs 11 September 2019**

National Situation

1. In the last two weeks (**28 August to 11 September**) there have been **312** cases of measles reported in New Zealand (**as at 0830hrs 11 September**) based on ESR reporting.
2. From 1 January 2019 to **11 September** 2019 there have been **1172** confirmed cases of measles notified across New Zealand (**as at 0830hrs 11 September**) based on ESR reporting. This is an increase of **23** cases nationally since **Executive Summary 07** provided on **Tuesday 10 September**.
3. There is still a rapid increase in cases in the Auckland region. Cases continue to occur nationwide related to the Auckland outbreak, especially in Northland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Lakes, and Southern DHBs.
4. 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, or importation from overseas. A detailed breakdown of cases by age, DHB, and vaccination status is available on the ESR Public Health Surveillance website. <https://surv.esr.cri.nz/surveillance/WeeklyMeaslesRpt.php>

Auckland Situation

5. There is currently a significant measles outbreak in the Auckland region which commenced in March 2019. As at **0830hrs 11 September**, there have been **970** confirmed cases of measles in this region; **this is an increase of 11 cases in the Auckland region since Executive Summary 07 provided on Tuesday 10 September. In total 668 cases** have occurred in Counties Manukau District Health Board (CMDHB) (*Appendix 1*).
6. New cases are 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 predominantly in the Pacific population.
7. Cases in the Auckland outbreak are being hospitalised at a slightly higher rate than in previous outbreaks in New Zealand. 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 do not know their vaccination status.

9. There have been no deaths associated with this outbreak.

Auckland Region Response – Key Actions

Auckland Regional Public Health Service

10. The Auckland region has 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
 - drop-in vaccination clinics 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.
11. Auckland Regional Public Health Service (ARPHS) is working with local organisations, including schools, regarding major events.
12. ARPHS are working on communications with the education sector regarding the revised processes for liaison and provision of advice to schools with confirmed cases.
13. 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. The exception is infants 12 months or older travelling to Auckland, who can bring their first MMR vaccination, usually given at 15 months, forward to 12 months.
14. **ARPHS has requested additional resources in the form of staff in order to sustain the response. The Ministry of Health is assisting with this request.**

Counties Manukau DHB

15. On 9 September the three Auckland metropolitan DHBs established a Regional Incident Management Team to coordinate the response across the region. This team is located at Auckland City Hospital. A daily teleconference is scheduled between this group and the NHCC.
16. **As at 11 September, 289 cases have been admitted to Middlemore Hospital since June 2019.**
17. **A paediatric isolation ward has been established over the weekend to accommodate 9 hospitalised cases at Middlemore Hospital.**
18. **There are an additional three adult in-patients at Middlemore Hospital.**
19. Outreach vaccination is occurring in the CMDHB area. This involves active recall of children under five who may have missed or are delayed in getting their MMR vaccines. In the Auckland region, this also includes people not engaged or enrolled with primary

care. Additional clinics have been set up to opportunistically vaccinate the unimmunised population.

20. CMDHB is running drop-in vaccination clinics. CMDHB is currently reassessing the vaccination clinic locations and will be publishing their whereabouts on the CMDHB webpage. <https://countiesmanukau.health.nz/for-patients-and-visitors/measles/>
21. Middlemore Hospital Emergency Department is also performing opportunistic vaccination. However, the general public is not encouraged to attend ED just for a vaccination. Data on these additional vaccination clinics has been provided by CMDHB (*Appendix 3*).
22. Up to 10 September, 4,529 additional vaccinations have been given through the outreach clinics in Counties Manukau. Of these, 15.5% have been given to those identifying as Māori, and 23.6% to those identifying as Pacific (*Appendix 3*).
23. A school based vaccination programme is scheduled to commence on Monday 16 September.
24. There is a delay in entering the vaccinations given in the clinics into the National Immunisation Register. CMDHB is working to improve this process.

Other Regions' Response – Key Actions

Southern DHB

25. As at 11 September 2019, there have been **22** confirmed cases of measles in Southern DHB. 18 of these cases have occurred in the last two weeks. 19 cases have occurred in Queenstown specifically, related to an imported Auckland case and exposure on a ski-field (as at 0830 11 September).
26. Southern DHB has stood up its Emergency Operating Centre (EOC). It has developed an action plan to address the increase in cases. **The EOC is managing vaccine supply across the region.**
27. The public and general practices have been notified through a media release, and additional information for schools and large group events is being produced. **Primary care in the region is receiving updates twice daily from the Southern DHB EOC.**
28. Vaccination clinics were held over the weekend (7/8 September) for NZSki staff. Of 867 staff, 698 have either had their immunisation status confirmed, or have been vaccinated. Final confirmation of the number of staff members still to be vaccinated will be done this week. Additional clinics are being organised, specifically at Lakes District Hospital for Wednesday to Friday this week.
29. Southern DHB is assessing the risk of spread into other areas, such as Wanaka, Arrowtown, and Dunedin.
30. Southern DHB continues to provide situation reports to the NHCC on a regular basis.

Ministry of Health

31. At this stage the Ministry of Health 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.
32. The Ministry of Health convened an urgent meeting of its expert advisory group on 3 September 2019.
33. The expert advisory group met again on 10 September 2019 to provide further advice on the situation.
34. The group's advice and recommendations will in turn inform the Ministry of Health's advice to Government.
35. The Ministry of Health is working to ensure the National Health Coordination Centre is well staffed for the next few weeks to support the ongoing regional response.

Vaccine Availability and Distribution

36. Vaccination is not typically the first response for an outbreak of measles as it takes 14 days to develop immunity in response to the vaccine. Ongoing routine immunisation programmes and high community immunity are therefore the best way to prevent disease outbreaks occurring. One dose of vaccine is effective in 95% of people. After two doses, more than 99% of people are protected. It takes two weeks for immunity to develop after having the measles vaccine.
37. Prior to 1969, when vaccination was introduced, measles was very common in New Zealand. Those over 50 years of age are considered immune and do not need the measles vaccine.
38. Normal monthly usage of MMR vaccine in New Zealand is approximately 12,000 doses. From 1 January to 3 September 2019, 230,000 doses of MMR vaccine were distributed nationwide.
39. On Sunday 8 September, a temporary pause was placed on ordering MMR vaccine by the Ministry of Health and PHARMAC. This was done in order to allow for a stocktake of the distribution of vaccines in each region. From this, it will be possible to ensure that stock is distributed to the areas with the highest need.
40. Results of this stocktake are being analysed at present. As at Monday 9 September, there were 10,000 doses of the MMR vaccine in primary care practices across New Zealand, not including in Auckland.
41. The Ministry of Health is in contact with DHB Planning and Funding Managers across New Zealand to assess vaccine requirements.
42. PHARMAC has arranged with the vaccine supplier to bring forward the next two expected orders of vaccine to assist with supporting the increased demand of vaccine. An order of 52,000 doses of MMR vaccine will arrive in New Zealand on 15 September. Further information will be provided on the process for managing this stock.

Public Information Management / Media

43. The majority of views on the Ministry of Health website has been users seeking out measles information (40 percent). From 2 September to 8 September, there have been 90,386 total hits on measles related webpages. This is twice the amount of views from the previous week.
44. Media interest continues for the Ministry of Health, PHARMAC and DHBs.
45. There have been two interviews this morning (Newshub and Morning Report) focusing on unimmunised children attending the Bay of Plenty AIMS Games this week (11,500 young athletes from NZ and Pacific in Tauranga) and the level of vaccine supplies.
46. A statement on vaccine supply based on an email sent to GPs on Sunday is being used for media interest today (provided in response to a query from RNZ). There remains significant media cover of issues related to vaccine supply, Auckland's response and impacted communities (in South Auckland but also skiers in Queenstown).
47. Dr William Rainger from Auckland Regional Public Health Service continues to give regular media stand ups. This week (starting 9 September) stand ups will be at 1400hrs on Monday, Thursday, and Saturday.
48. All agencies, including the Ministry of Health, will continue to focus on joined up messaging, shared communications and exploring ways to proactively push vaccination messages and health awareness. The Ministry of Health's position is that the case numbers from the Executive Summary, released daily, are to be used for media requests and releases for national consistency.

Phone lines

49. The National Telehealth Service (Healthline) is still experiencing high call volumes. On 10 September, 1,394 calls were answered by Healthline. This was 46% higher than the forecasted call amount. During this period, 127 symptomatic measles calls were taken. All these cases were provided with clinical triage. The majority of these calls are concerning people under 5 years of age. The highest number of calls came from the Waitemata DHB area.
50. The IMAC phone lines continue to experience high call volumes.
51. PlunketLine has reported increased call volumes since 30 August 2019. The table below shows the increase of calls compared to the regular expected call volume to PlunketLine since Friday 30 August. The themes for questions are predominantly about infectious disease management, and concern for infants under 12 months. The majority of the calls are from the Auckland region, Waikato, and the Bay of Plenty.

Day	Increase compared to regular expected call volume
Friday 30 August	Increase of 51%
Saturday 31 August	Increase of 26%
Sunday 1 September	Increase of 35%
Monday 2 September	Increase of 30%
Tuesday 3 September	Increase of 37%
Wednesday 4 September	Increase of 49%
Thursday 5 September	Increase of 49%
Friday 6 September	Increase of 41%
Saturday 7 September	Increase of 37%
Sunday 8 September	Increase of 5%
Monday 9 September	Increase of 19%
Tuesday 10 September	Increase of 20%

Next situation report

The next report will be an Executive Summary via email at **1100** hrs on Thursday 12 September 2019.

The next situation report will be via email at **1500** hrs on Friday 13 September 2019.

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Appendix 1. Cases per DHB in New Zealand

DHB	Cumulative Cases - 1 January 2019 to 11 September 2019	Cases in the last 14 days (28 August to 11 September)	Cases since last report	Status
Northland	39	13	3	Auckland link
Waitemata	158	28	1	Outbreak ongoing
Auckland	144	54	1	Outbreak ongoing
Counties Manukau	668	180	9	Outbreak ongoing
Waikato	28	10	1	Auckland link
Lakes	10	3	1	Isolated cases and Auckland link
Bay of Plenty	30	3	1	Auckland link
Tairāwhiti	0	0	0	-
Taranaki	6	2	0	New Auckland link
Hawke's Bay	3	0	0	Auckland link
Whanganui	0	0	0	-
MidCentral	2	1	0	Auckland link, single case
Hutt Valley	7	0	0	No recent cases
Capital and Coast	12	0	0	Auckland link, single case
Wairarapa	1	0	0	No recent cases
Nelson Marlborough	0	0	0	-
West Coast	0	0	0	-
Canterbury	41	0	0	No recent cases
South Canterbury	1	0	0	No recent cases
Southern	22	18	6	Auckland link
Total	1172	312	23	

Appendix 2

Figure 1. Cases of measles in the Auckland region to 11 September 2019

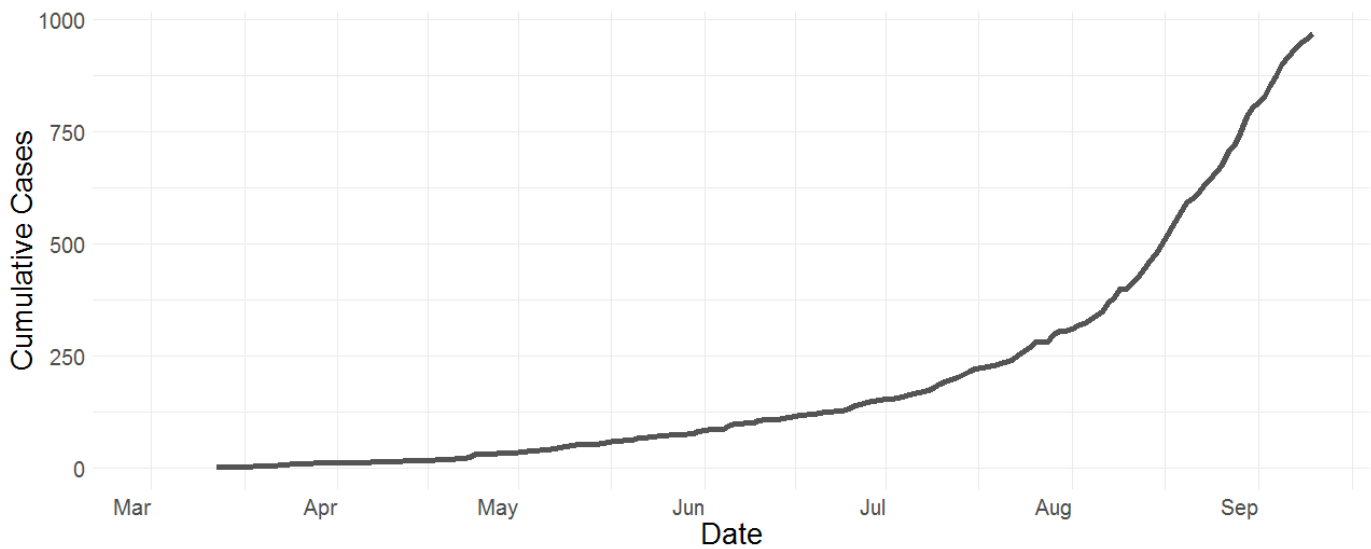


Figure 2. Exponential modelling of cases in Auckland per week up to 22 September 2019
Note: This graph is currently being updated. Further information will follow.

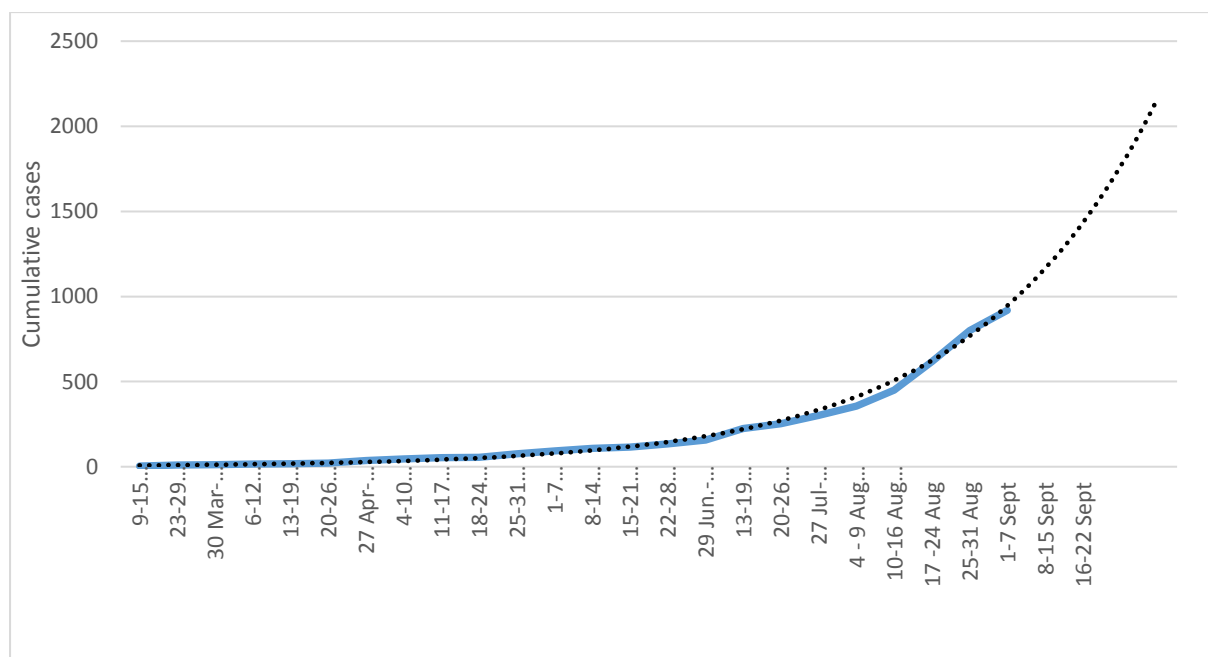


Figure 3. Cases of measles per DHB in Auckland since March 2019

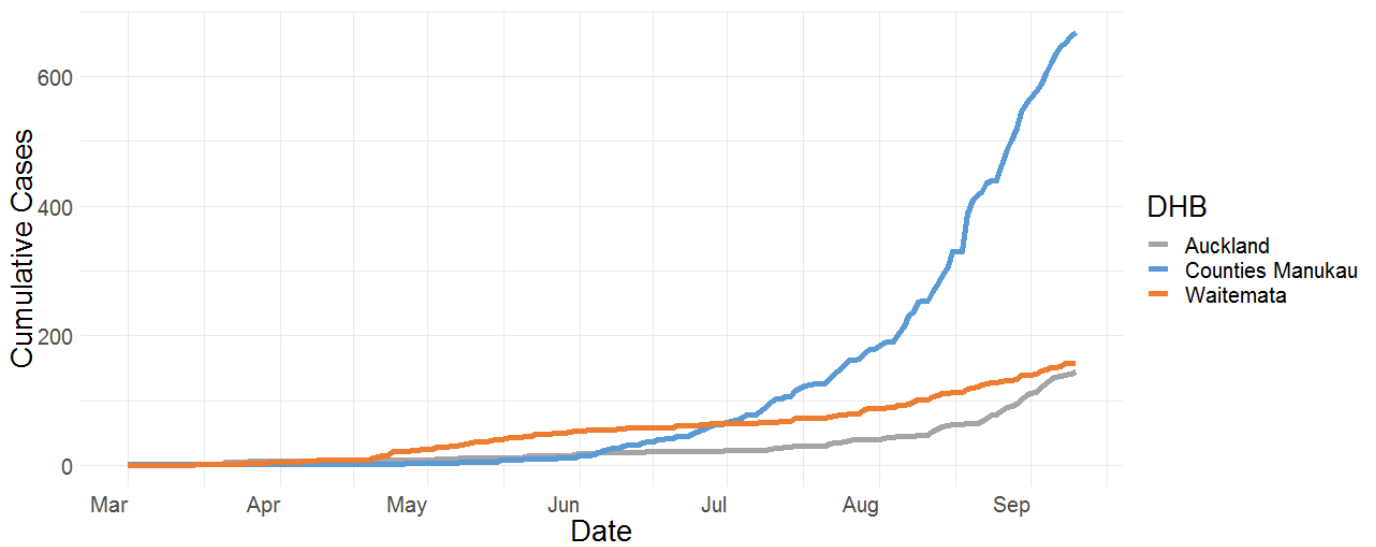


Figure 4. Number of cases of measles confirmed per day. *Please note that cases over the weekend are normally cumulatively notified to the Ministry of Health on a Monday.*

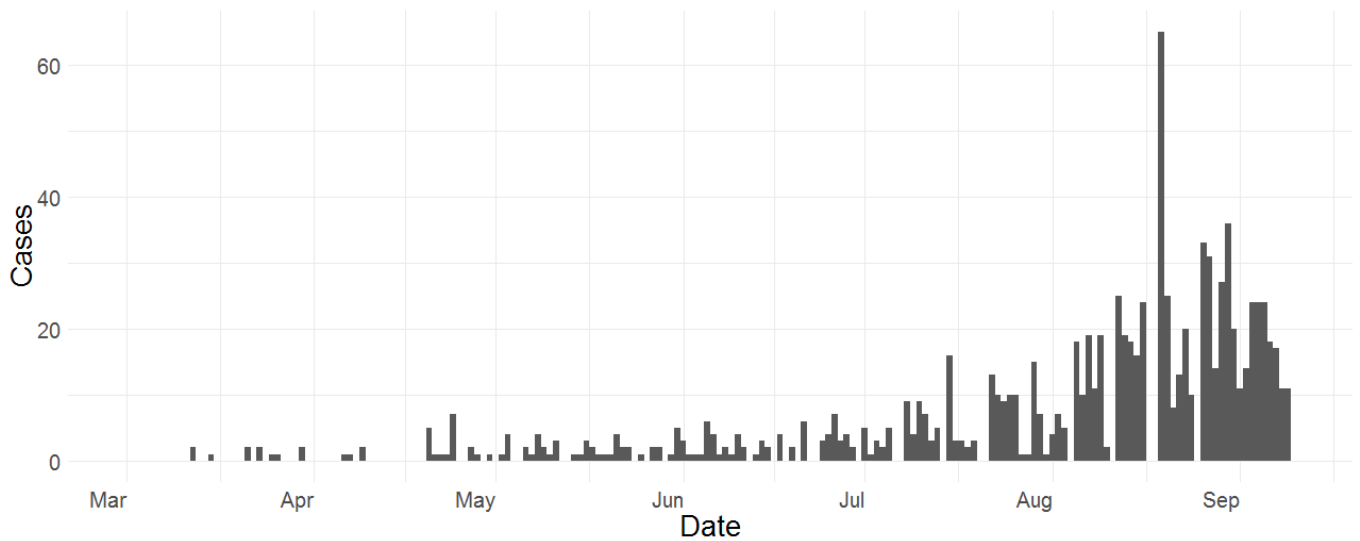
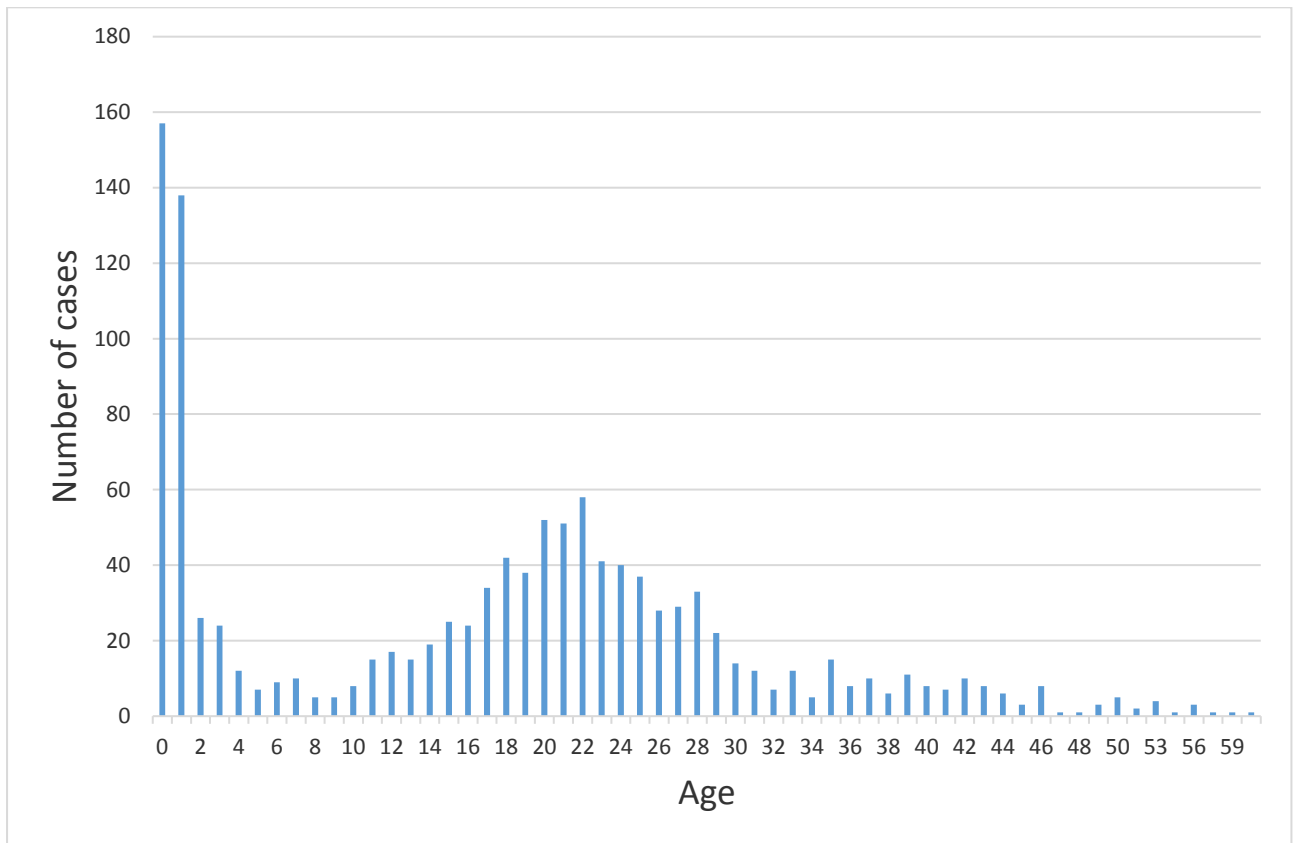


Figure 5. Cases of measles in New Zealand to 9 September by age



Appendix 3. CMDHB outreach vaccination clinic data up to **10 September**

	Maori	Pacific	Other	Maori	Pacific	Other	Maori	Pacific	Other	Maori	Pacific	Other	Total
	0-4yrs			5-14 years			15-29 years			29+ years			4529
Total per age group	375			283			1441			2711			
% in each age group	8.3			6.2			31.8			59.9			
Total per age group and ethnicity	104	99	172	66	109	109	223	418	804	310	513	1892	
% per age group and ethnicity	2.3	2.2	3.8	1.5	2.4	2.4	4.9	9.2	17.8	6.8	11.3	41.8	