



SITREP 11

NATIONAL MEASLES OUTBREAK 2019

Issued: **1500 hrs, 13 SEPTEMBER 2019**

IN CONFIDENCE – NOT FOR FURTHER DISTRIBUTION

New information in red text

All information is current as of **1300hrs 13 September 2019**

National Situation

- From 1 January 2019 to **13 September** 2019 there have been **1238** confirmed cases of measles notified across New Zealand (as at **0835hrs 13 September**) based on ESR reporting. This is an increase of **24** cases nationally since **Executive Summary 09 provided on Thursday 12 September**.
- Over the last two weeks (**30 August to 13 September**) case numbers continue to increase rapidly in the Auckland region, with **279** new cases reported. Within the Auckland region, most cases have been reported in Counties Manukau District Health Board (CMDHB) (*Appendix 1*), with **190** new cases reported in the last two weeks. Nationally, **332** more cases have been reported over the same period.
- **There has also been a cluster of cases, reported in Queenstown, linked to the Auckland outbreak. Given the large number of cases in the Auckland region, it is expected that further isolated cases will continue to be reported in areas outside of the Auckland region.**
- Cases outside of Auckland are all currently linked to travel to or from the Metropolitan Auckland area. **Cases outside of the Auckland region have been limited to single cases and small clusters. Public health units (outside of the Auckland region) continue to manage these cases and their contacts promptly, in order to limit transmission.**
- **As expected, most cases have been in unvaccinated people, or in those whose vaccination status is unknown. There have been no reported deaths associated with this outbreak.**
- 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

- The ongoing significant measles outbreak in the Auckland region commenced in March 2019. As at **0835hrs 13 September**, there have been **1028** confirmed cases of measles in this region, which is **an increase of 21 cases** in the Auckland region **since Executive Summary 09 provided on Thursday 12 September**.
- New cases are mainly occurring in South Auckland. **In total 711 cases** have occurred in Counties Manukau District Health Board (CMDHB) (*Appendix 1*). In South Auckland, the cases have been mainly in the 0–4 and 20–29-year age groups and predominantly in the Pacific population.

Auckland Region Response – Key Actions

Auckland Regional Public Health Service

The Auckland region **continues to implement outbreak control** strategies, including:

- Working to increase the population immunity against measles, particularly in young children (lowering the age of the first MMR vaccine to 12 months from 15 months and active recall of children who have not been vaccinated), Pacific people, and those aged between 15 and 29 years.
- Drop-in vaccination clinics are being held 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.
- Auckland Regional Public Health Service (ARPHS) **continues its work** with local organisations, including schools, regarding major events and working with Mangere Refugee Resettlement Centre to protect its vulnerable population. It is also scoping additional public information to be provided at Auckland International Airport in line with national messaging.
- **A teacher at McAuley High School is a confirmed case of measles. LabTests is visiting the school today to take serology of staff – these results will inform action required next week.**
- **Yesterday (12 September) ARPHS has sent communications to the education sector (school principals) regarding the approach to support schools with confirmed cases.**
- 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

- As at 13 September, 303 cases have been admitted to Middlemore Hospital since June 2019. **This includes 10 children with measles, admitted to a paediatric isolation ward.**
- There are an additional two adult in-patients at Middlemore Hospital.
- 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.
- Up to **12 September, 4,972** additional vaccinations have been given through the outreach clinics in Counties Manukau. Of these, 15% have been given to those identifying as Māori, and 23.6% to those identifying as Pacific (*Appendix 3*).
- A school based vaccination programme is scheduled to commence on Monday 16 September.

Other Regions' Response – Key Actions

Southern DHB

- As at 13 September 2019, there have been **21** confirmed cases of measles in Southern DHB. 17 of these cases have occurred in the last two weeks (*see Appendix 1*).
- **Southern DHB has implemented outbreak management strategies, including:**
 - **Active contact tracing and isolation.**
 - **Raising awareness through public messaging.**
 - **Vaccine supply management in the region.**
 - Southern DHB is assessing the risk of spread into other areas, such as Wanaka, Arrowtown, and Dunedin.
- Southern DHB continues to provide situation reports to the National Health Coordination Centre (NHCC) on a regular basis.

Ministry of Health

- Daily teleconferences continue to be held between the three Auckland DHBs and the NHCC.
- The Ministry of Health continues its close work with public health units (PHUs) with cases of measles across the country.
- 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.
- The expert advisory group met for the second time on 10 September 2019 to provide further advice on the situation. **Recommendations from the advisory group are being finalised and will inform the Ministry's advice to Government.**
- The Ministry of Health is working to ensure the NHCC is well staffed for the next few weeks to support the ongoing regional response.

Vaccine Availability and Distribution

- While ongoing routine immunisation programmes and high community immunity are the best way to prevent disease outbreaks occurring vaccination is not typically the first response for an outbreak of measles as it takes 14 days to develop immunity following vaccination.
- 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.
- The Ministry of Health is in contact with DHB Planning and Funding Managers across New Zealand to assess vaccine requirements.
- 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 around 15 September, with orders expected to be able to be taken from 20 September. This equates to four months' supply of MMR vaccine when used at typical rates.

Public Information Management / Media

- Media interest continues for the Ministry of Health, PHARMAC and DHBs. All agencies will continue to focus on joined up messaging, shared communications and exploring ways to proactively push vaccination messages and health awareness. **Media responses should mirror the Ministry messaging for national consistency.**
- Those outside of this region should follow the National Immunisation Schedule.
- **A health sector update was sent on 11 September regarding protecting the most vulnerable populations. The Ministry of Health has provided guidance for general practices and primary health organisations (PHOs). The Ministry is working with DHBs to manage distribution, and are asking general practices and PHOs to reserve vaccines for priority groups.**

Phone lines

- **The National Telehealth Service (Healthline) continues to experience high call volumes. For the past 24hrs (to 12 September) call volumes were 43% higher than forecast.**
- **The PlunketLine has also reported an increased number of calls since 30 August.**
- **During this period, 160 people were diverted during the interactive voice response (IVR) messaging and received self-care advice information digitally.**
 - **Of these, 36% were seeking general measles information.**
 - **12% information about the MMR vaccine.**
 - **11% about the location of Auckland clinics.**
- **During the period, 116 symptomatic measles calls were provided with a clinical triage.**
 - **3% were sent to ED.**
 - **14% to A and M Clinics.**
 - **51% to general practice.**
 - **23% were provided with self-care advice.**

Next situation report

The next report will be an **Exception Report** via email at **1100** hrs on **Saturday 14 September 2019**. The next situation report will be via email at **1500** hrs on **Monday 16 September 2019**.

Prepared by: Kia Silvennoinen, Intelligence

Approved by: Kate Crawford, National Coordinator

Appendix 1. Cases per DHB in New Zealand

DHB	Cumulative Cases - 1 January 2019 to 13 September 2019	Cases in the last 14 days (30 August to 13 September)	Cases since last report	Status**
Northland	42	14	1	Auckland link
Waitemata	169	36	3	Outbreak ongoing
Auckland	148	53	2	Outbreak ongoing
Counties Manukau	711	190	16	Outbreak ongoing
Waikato	31	11	1	Auckland link
Lakes	11	4	0	Auckland link
Bay of Plenty	31	3	1	Auckland link
Tairāwhiti	0	0	0	-
Taranaki	6	2	0	Auckland link
Hawke's Bay	3	0	0	Auckland link
Whanganui	0	0	0	-
MidCentral	2	1	0	Auckland link
Hutt Valley	7	0	0	No recent cases
Capital and Coast	12	0	0	Auckland link
Wairarapa	1	0	0	No recent cases
Nelson Marlborough	0	0	0	-
West Coast	0	0	0	-
Canterbury	42	1	1	Auckland link
South Canterbury	1	0	0	Auckland link
Southern	21	17	-1*	Auckland link
Total	1238	332	24	

*This case was vaccine related, and therefore not a case.

**This refers to areas with cases within the last 42 days (2 maximum incubation periods for measles).

Appendix 2

Figure 1. Cases of measles in the Auckland region to 13 September 2019

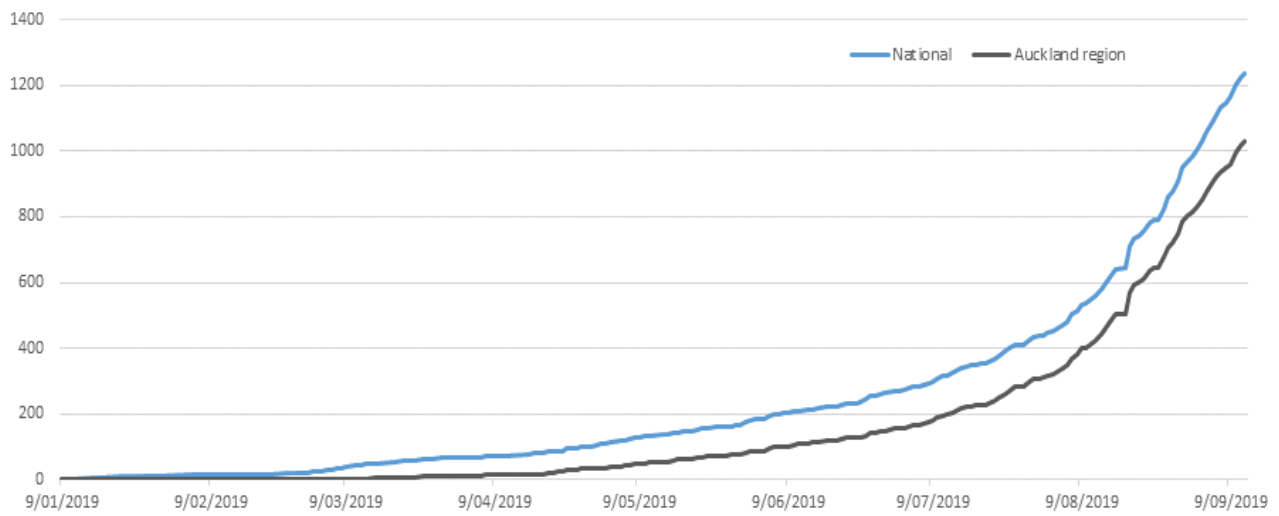


Figure 2. Cases of measles per DHB in Auckland since March 2019

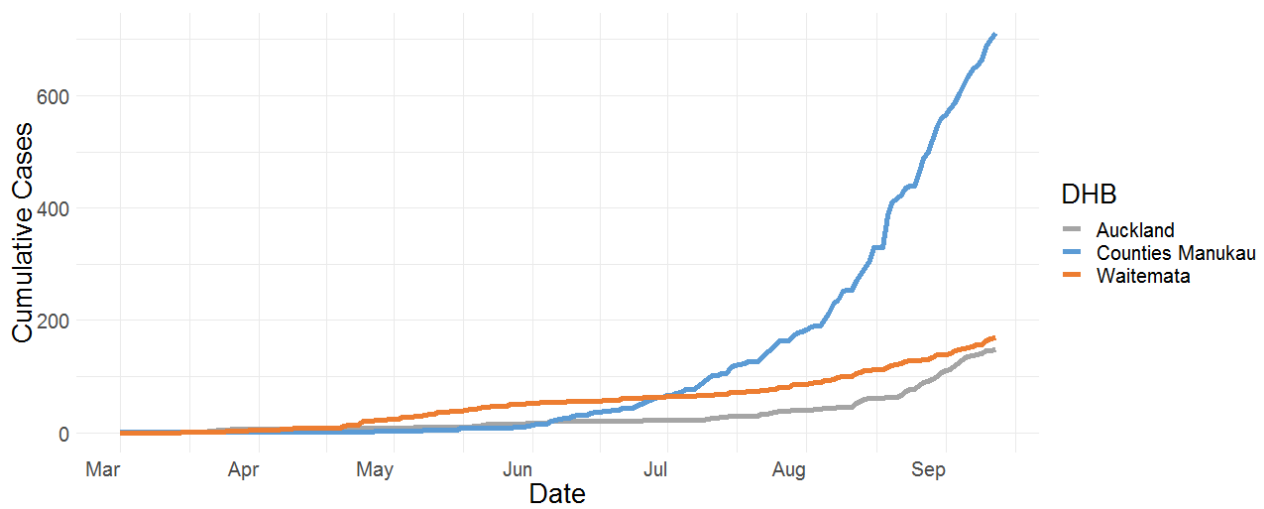
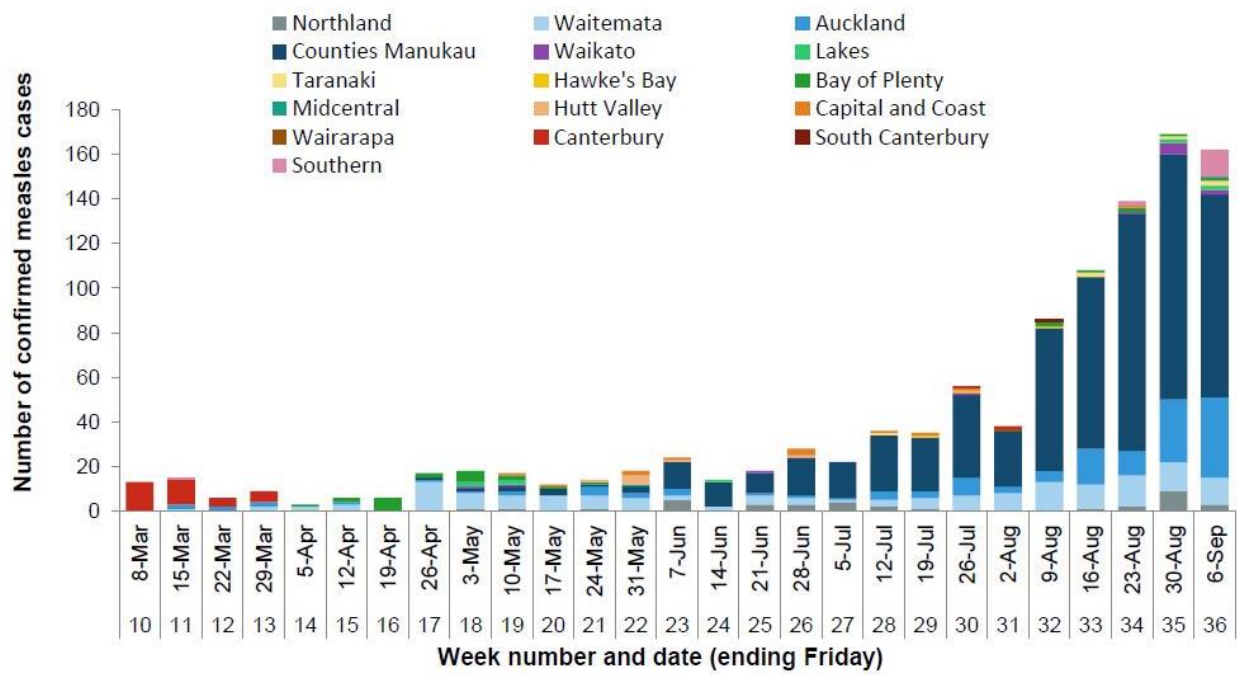


Figure 3. Number of confirmed cases by week and DHB for the last six months, 2019



Appendix 3. CMDHB outreach vaccination clinic data up to **12 September**

	Maori	Pacific	Other	Maori	Pacific	Other	Maori	Pacific	Other	Maori	Pacific	Other	Total
	0-4yrs			5-14 years			15-29 years			29+ years			4972
Total per age group	404			300			1677			2961			
% in each age group	8.1			6.0			33.7			59.6			
Total per age group and ethnicity	110	109	185	70	113	118	234	549	898	333	570	2062	
% per age group and ethnicity	2.2	2.2	3.7	1.4	2.3	2.4	4.7	11.0	18.1	6.7	11.5	41.5	