



SITREP 12

NATIONAL MEASLES OUTBREAK 2019

Issued: **1500 hrs, 16 SEPTEMBER 2019**

IN CONFIDENCE – NOT FOR FURTHER DISTRIBUTION

New information in red text

All information is current as of **1300hrs 16 September 2019**

National Situation

1. From 1 January 2019 to **16 September** 2019 (as at 0830hrs) there have been **1277** confirmed cases of measles notified across New Zealand, based on ESR reporting. This is an increase of **11** cases nationally since **Exception Report 04 provided on Saturday 14 September**.
2. Over the last two weeks (**2 September to 16 September**) **295** more cases have been reported nationally. During this period, reported case numbers have continued to increase rapidly in the Auckland region (**248** new cases), with most cases reported in Counties Manukau District Health Board (CMDHB) (**170** cases). See *Appendix 1* for details.
3. 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.
4. Recent cases outside of the Auckland region have been linked to the Auckland outbreak, and are limited to single cases and small clusters, **such as the Queenstown outbreak**. Public health units (outside of the Auckland region) continue to manage these cases and their contacts promptly, in order to limit transmission.
5. 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.
6. 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

7. The ongoing significant measles outbreak in the Auckland region commenced in March 2019. As at **0830hrs 16 September**, there have been **1064** confirmed cases of measles in this region, which is **an increase of 36 cases** in the Auckland region **since Situation Report 11 provided on Friday 13 September**.
8. New cases are mainly occurring in South Auckland. **In total 736 cases** have occurred in CMDHB (see *Appendix 1* for details). 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 (ARPHS)

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

9. 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.
10. Raising awareness of the current situation, including public messaging on the outbreak.
11. Working with local organisations, including schools, the Mangere Refugee Resettlement Centre, and organisers of major events, to provide advice and information on measles.
12. **A letter to school principals with a link to a new School Pack has been sent. ARPHS is also proactively following up with schools who have children with confirmed measles to ensure they have the most up to date information.**

Counties Manukau DHB

13. As at 13 September, 303 cases have been admitted to Middlemore Hospital since June 2019. **This currently includes seven children with measles, admitted to a paediatric isolation ward, and one adult in-patient at Middlemore Hospital.**
14. **The final day for opportunistic vaccinations in ED was Saturday, 14 September.**
15. **The final day for Middlemore Hospital drop-in clinic is Thursday 19 September.**
16. Community drop-in clinics continue, including **clinics in Manurewa High on Friday 13 September, and Papakura High on 14 and 15 September.**
17. Up to 15 September, **5,112** additional vaccinations have been given through the outreach clinics in Counties Manukau. Of these, **15.1%** have been given to those identifying as Māori, and **23.6%** to those identifying as Pacific.
18. A school-based vaccination programme is scheduled to commence on Monday 16 September. **As at 1130 hrs there are no further details.**

Other Regions' Response – Key Actions

Southern DHB

19. 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*).
20. Southern DHB has implemented outbreak management strategies, including:
 - Active contact tracing and isolation.
 - Raising awareness through public messaging.
 - Managing the vaccine stock.
 - Southern DHB is assessing the risk of spread into other areas, such as Wanaka, Arrowtown, and Dunedin.
21. Southern DHB continues to provide situation reports to the National Health Coordination Centre (NHCC) on a regular basis.

Ministry of Health

22. Daily teleconferences continue to be held between the three Auckland DHBs and the NHCC.
23. The Ministry of Health continues to work closely with public health units (PHUs) with cases of measles across the country.
24. 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.
25. 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 Stock and Distribution

26. Ongoing routine immunisation programmes and high community immunity are the best way to prevent disease outbreaks. However, vaccination is not typically the first response for an outbreak of measles as it takes 14 days to develop immunity following vaccination.
27. The Ministry of Health is in contact with DHB Planning and Funding Managers across New Zealand to **manage stock** requirements.
28. 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 **arrived** in New Zealand on **16 September**, with orders expected to be able to be taken from **19 September**.

Public Information Management / Media

29. Media interest continues for the Ministry of Health, PHARMAC and DHBs. **Media responses should mirror the Ministry messaging for national consistency**. All agencies continue to focus on exploring ways to proactively push vaccination messages and health awareness
30. 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 **stock** distribution and are asking general practices and PHOs to reserve vaccines for priority groups.

Phone lines

31. The National Telehealth Service (Healthline) continues to experience high call volumes on symptomatic calls, particularly on weekdays. Below is an update regarding activity for the 24-hour periods ended midnight on each day of the three day to 13 to 15 September.

	13-Sep	14-Sep	15-Sep
Total calls answered	1158	1251	1227
% above forecast	27%	15%	23%
Calls from IMAC line	39	9	7
Calls diverted to website	119	52	56
Downloads of information from website	33	14	13
Triaged measles calls	126	158	153
% ED	2%	3%	3%
% A&M clinic	10%	44%	24%
% GP	46%	36%	29%
% self care	21%	23%	25%
Measles queries	53	14	25

32. The PlunketLine has also reported an increased number of calls since 30 August, particularly from the following regions: Waitemata, the Auckland region, especially Counties Manakau, Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Southern.
33. Tuesday 10 September, the PlunketLine at IMAC conducted a live Facebook chat on measles, with a total of 9700 views.

Next situation report

The next report will be an **Exception Report** via email at **1100** hrs on **Tuesday 17 September 2019**. The next Situation Report will be via email at **1500** hrs on **Wednesday 18 September 2019**.

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Appendix 1. Cases per DHB in New Zealand

DHB	Cumulative Cases - 1 January 2019 to 16 September 2019	Cases in the last 14 days (2 September to 16 September)	Cases since last report	Status*
Northland	41	7	0	Auckland link
Waitemata	177	38	6	Outbreak ongoing
Auckland	151	40	1	Outbreak ongoing
Counties Manukau	736	170	4	Outbreak ongoing
Waikato	32	10	0	Auckland link
Lakes	12	5	0	Auckland link
Bay of Plenty	31	2	0	Auckland link
Tairāwhiti	0	0	0	-
Taranaki	6	2	0	Auckland link
Hawke's Bay	3	0	0	No recent cases
Whanganui	0	0	0	-
MidCentral	4	3	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	0	Auckland link
South Canterbury	1	0	0	Auckland link
Southern	21	17	0	Auckland link
Total	1277	295	11	

* 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 New Zealand and the Auckland Region to 16 September 2019

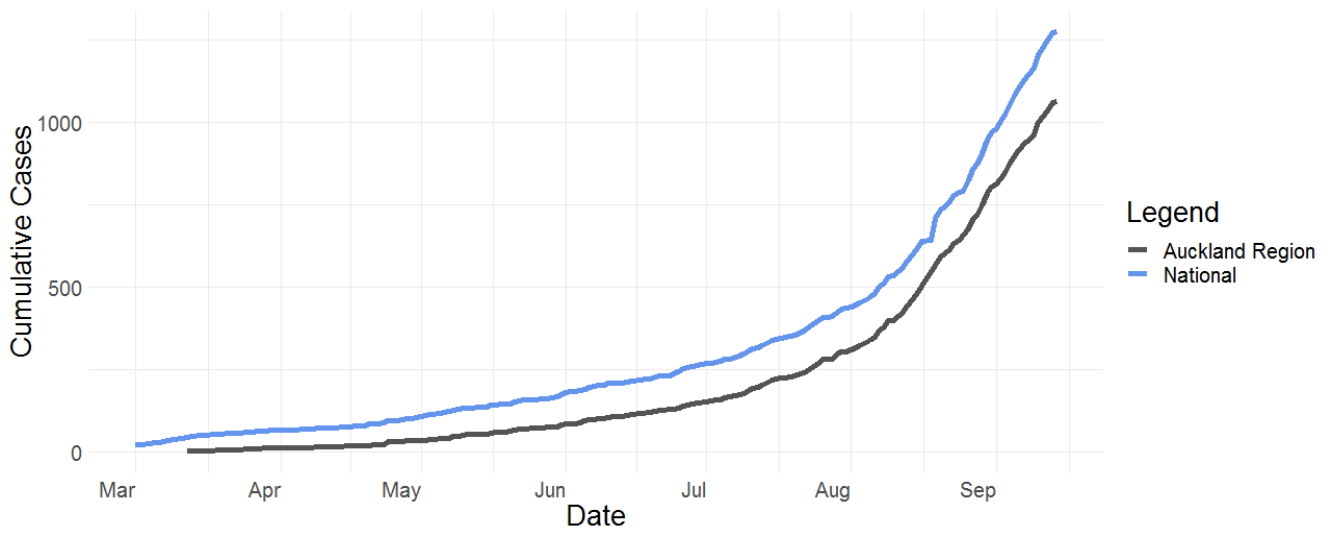


Figure 2. Cases of measles per DHB in Auckland March 2019 to 16 September 2019

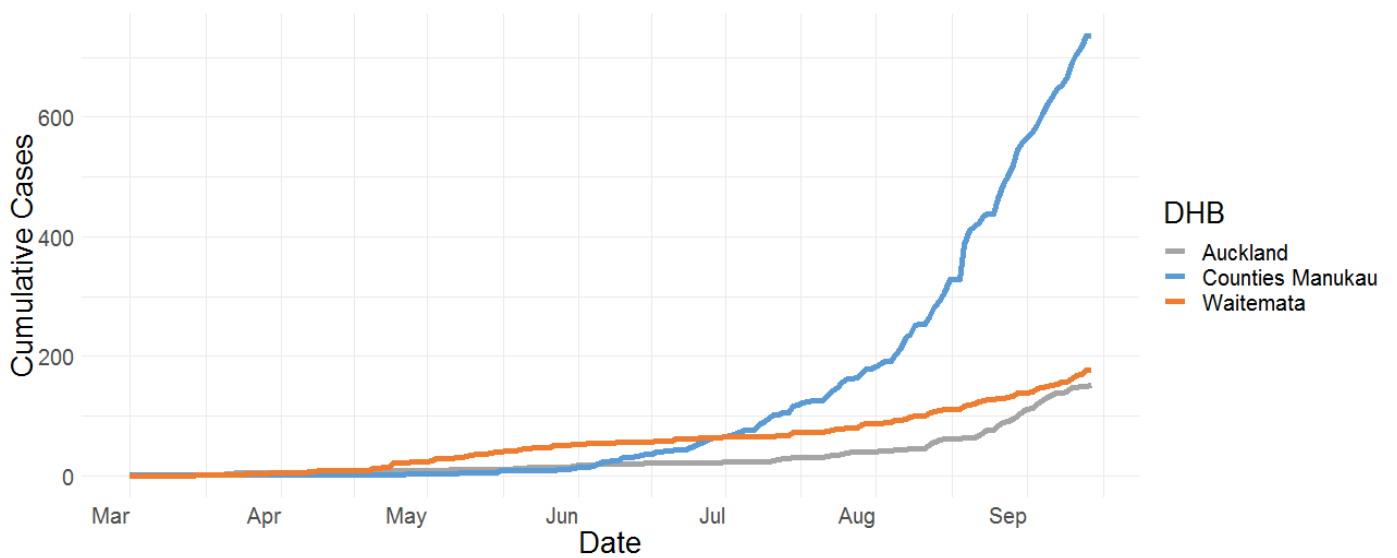


Figure 3. Number of confirmed cases by week and DHB for the last six months, 2019

