



SITREP 15

NATIONAL MEASLES OUTBREAK 2019

Issued: **1500 hrs, 23 SEPTEMBER 2019**

IN CONFIDENCE – NOT FOR FURTHER DISTRIBUTION

New information in red text

All information is current as of 1300hrs 23 September 2019

National Situation

1. From 1 January 2019 to **23 September** 2019 there have been **1419** confirmed cases of measles notified across New Zealand (as at 0830hrs 23 September) based on ESR reporting. This is an increase of **34** cases nationally since **Executive Summary 15** provided on Friday 20 September.
2. Over the last two weeks (**9 September to 23 September**) **275** cases have been reported nationally. During this period, case numbers have continued to increase rapidly in the Auckland region (**233** cases), with most cases reported in Counties Manukau District Health Board (CMDHB) (**154** cases). See *Appendix 1* for details.
3. 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.
4. **Figures detailing weekly notifications of measles cases across New Zealand have been updated (*Appendix 2*). Figure 1 indicates that the weekly number of measles notifications may have plateaued over the past three weeks and may be decreasing. However, it is not yet possible to determine if the outbreak has peaked, and further data points are needed to confirm this trend. Notifications and associated trends will continue to be closely monitored over the next two to three weeks.**
5. 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

6. **As at 0830hrs 23 September**, there have been **1180** confirmed cases of measles in the Auckland region, which is an increase of **29** cases since **Executive Summary 15** provided on Friday 20 September.
7. New cases are mainly occurring in South Auckland. In total **807** cases have occurred in CMDHB (see *Appendix 1* for details).

Auckland Region Response – Key Actions

Counties Manukau DHB

8. As at 13 September, 303 cases have been admitted to Middlemore Hospital since June 2019. This currently includes **six** children with measles, admitted to a paediatric isolation ward. There are currently **two** adult in-patients in Middlemore and **one** patient in **Middlemore Emergency Department with suspected measles.**
9. **The Middlemore Hospital drop-in clinic is continuing through the week of 23 September. This clinic will target high risk patients on high risk wards.**
10. Additional vaccinations have been given through the outreach clinics in Counties Manukau to **6,025 people (to 23 September).**

Other Regions' Response – Key Actions

Northland DHB

11. **As at 0830hrs 23 September, there have been 47 cases of measles reported in Northland DHB since 1 January 2019.**
12. Northland DHB are encouraging primary care practices to immunise as per the National Immunisation Schedule, and to actively recall 15-month to 4 year olds who have no record of MMR vaccination.
13. A drop-in immunisation clinic has been set up in Whangarei for two days per week.
14. Opportunistic immunisation is taking place at B4school checks and with other public health nurse contacts in the region.

Waikato DHB

15. **As at 0830hrs 23 September, there have been 35 cases of measles in Waikato DHB. The majority of these cases are linked to the Auckland outbreak. This is an increase of one case over the weekend. Contact tracing is underway to determine the source of exposure.**
16. Waikato DHB activated its Emergency Operations Centre and is developing an action plan to address the increase in cases in the region and manage vaccine supply.
17. Drop-in vaccination clinics are ongoing in the region.

Bay of Plenty and Lakes DHBs

18. **As at 0830hrs 23 September, there have been 33 cases of measles in Bay of Plenty DHB, and 17 cases of measles in Lakes DHB.**

19. Lakes DHB has set up an incident management team and is liaising with the Toi Te Ora incident management team.
20. As at 20 September, Lakes DHB report that stock is available in all practices, and the reporting and ordering system is working well.

Wellington Region

21. As at 0830hrs 23 September there have been **22** confirmed cases of measles in the Wellington region since 1 January 2019. There have been two new cases reported since Friday 20 September.
22. On 20 September, a case of measles in the Hutt Valley was confirmed by Regional Public Health. The case had confirmed contact with a case in Auckland. Contact tracing and follow-up of workplace and household contacts is underway. The case had no flights or visits to public spaces during the infectious period.
23. A second case of measles was confirmed in the Hutt Valley on 22 September. The case had been in Auckland earlier this month participating in a secondary school cooking competition. The case attended classes on Monday 16 September. Regional Public Health are working closely with the school, and have advised staff, students, and parents. They are working to ensure that students who have not had at least one MMR vaccination do not attend school. Two public health nurses are on-site today 23 September at the school.

Southern DHB

24. As at 0830hrs 23 September 2019, there have been **29** confirmed cases of measles in Southern DHB. **8** of these cases have been reported in the last two weeks (see *Appendix 1*), mainly in Queenstown. **Four new cases that were reported over the weekend are linked to exposure from known recent cases.**

Ministry of Health

25. Daily teleconferences continue to be held between the three Auckland DHBs and the NHCC.

Vaccine Stock and Distribution

26. An order of 52,000 doses of MMR vaccine arrived in New Zealand on 16 September. The DHB Single Points of Contact are now able to order this stock for their providers.
27. On 18 September, the Ministry announced that subject to final regulatory approval, a further 100,000 vaccines have been allocated to New Zealand.
28. Planning is underway to determine the best strategy for management and distribution of the additional 100,000 doses.

29. Up to 23 September, 183,820 MMR vaccinations have been given in New Zealand this year according to the National Immunisation Register. This is compared to 96,101 vaccinations given in the same time period in 2018.

Public Information Management / Media

30. Media interest continues for the Ministry of Health, PHARMAC and DHBs. Media releases and responses should mirror the Ministry messaging to ensure national consistency and should be reviewed by the NHCC team prior to release.

31. From 16 September to 22 September, 16.9% of all visits to the Ministry of Health website were related to measles. A total of 20,714 users were looking for measles information. Of these, 12,966 were from the Auckland region.

| Page Title | Unique Pageviews | Entrances |
|--|------------------|-----------|
| 2019 measles outbreak information | 16,240 | 12,665 |
| Measles | 11,554 | 10,104 |
| Measles information for health professionals | 930 | 306 |
| Protecting children who can't be immunised against measles | 671 | 116 |
| Measles stories | 481 | 67 |
| Post-exposure MMR vaccination and exclusion | 127 | 44 |
| Measles immunisation coverage | 84 | 26 |
| Measles like 'flu on crack' student says (video) | 82 | 16 |
| Family count themselves lucky after measles experience | 67 | 13 |

32. The National Telehealth Service (Healthline) continues to experience high call volumes, particularly on weekdays. Below is an update on activity for the 24-hour period ending midnight 18 September.

| 20-Sep | |
|---------------------------|------|
| Total calls answered | 1216 |
| % above forecast | 30% |
| Calls from IMAC line | 59 |
| Calls diverted to website | 56 |
| Triaged measles calls | 112 |
| % ED | 2% |
| % A&M clinic | 12% |
| % GP | 48% |
| % self care | 28% |

33. PlunketLine report increased call volumes, however the volume has decreased since the start of September.

| Date | Day | % difference compared to expected |
|-------------|------------|--|
| 30-Aug | Fri | 51% |
| 31-Aug | Sat | 26% |
| 1-Sep | Sun | 35% |
| 2-Sep | Mon | 30% |
| 3-Sep | Tue | 37% |
| 4-Sep | Wed | 49% |
| 5-Sep | Thu | 49% |
| 6-Sep | Fri | 41% |
| 7-Sep | Sat | 37% |
| 8-Sep | Sun | 5% |
| 9-Sep | Mon | 19% |
| 10-Sep | Tue | 20% |
| 11-Sep | Wed | 17% |
| 12-Sep | Thu | 5% |
| 13-Sep | Fri | 7% |
| 14-Sep | Sat | 14% |
| 15-Sep | Sun | 13% |
| 16-Sep | Mon | 7% |
| 17-Sep | Tue | 8% |
| 18-Sep | Wed | 0% |
| 19-Sep | Thu | 9% |
| 20-Sep | Fri | 0% |
| 21-Sep | Sat | 4% |
| 22-Sep | Sun | 9% |

Next Report

The next report will be an Executive Summary at **1100hrs** on Tuesday 24 September 2019.

Prepared by: Tara Swadi, Intelligence

Approved by: Kath Blair, National Coordinator

Appendix 1. Cases per DHB in New Zealand

| DHB | Cumulative Cases - 1 January 2019 to 23 September 2019 | Cases in the last 14 days (9 September to 23 September) | Cases since last report | Status* |
|--------------------|--|---|-------------------------|------------------|
| Northland | 47 | 11 | 0 | Auckland link |
| Waitemata | 192 | 35 | 2 | Outbreak ongoing |
| Auckland | 181 | 44 | 10 | Outbreak ongoing |
| Counties Manukau | 807 | 154 | 16 | Outbreak ongoing |
| Waikato | 35 | 8 | 1 | Auckland link |
| Lakes | 17 | 7 | 1 | Auckland link |
| Bay of Plenty | 33 | 3 | -1** | Auckland link |
| Tairāwhiti | 0 | 0 | 0 | - |
| Taranaki | 6 | 0 | 0 | Auckland link |
| Hawke's Bay | 3 | 0 | 0 | No recent cases |
| Whanganui | 0 | 0 | 0 | - |
| MidCentral | 4 | 2 | -1** | Auckland link |
| Hutt Valley | 9 | 2 | 2 | Auckland link |
| 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 | No recent cases |
| Southern | 29 | 8 | 4 | Auckland link |
| Total | 1419 | 275 | 34 | |

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

** These cases have been reclassified pending further laboratory information, as they were recently vaccinated.

Appendix 2

Figure 1. Number of confirmed measles notifications by week, 1 January–20 September 2019

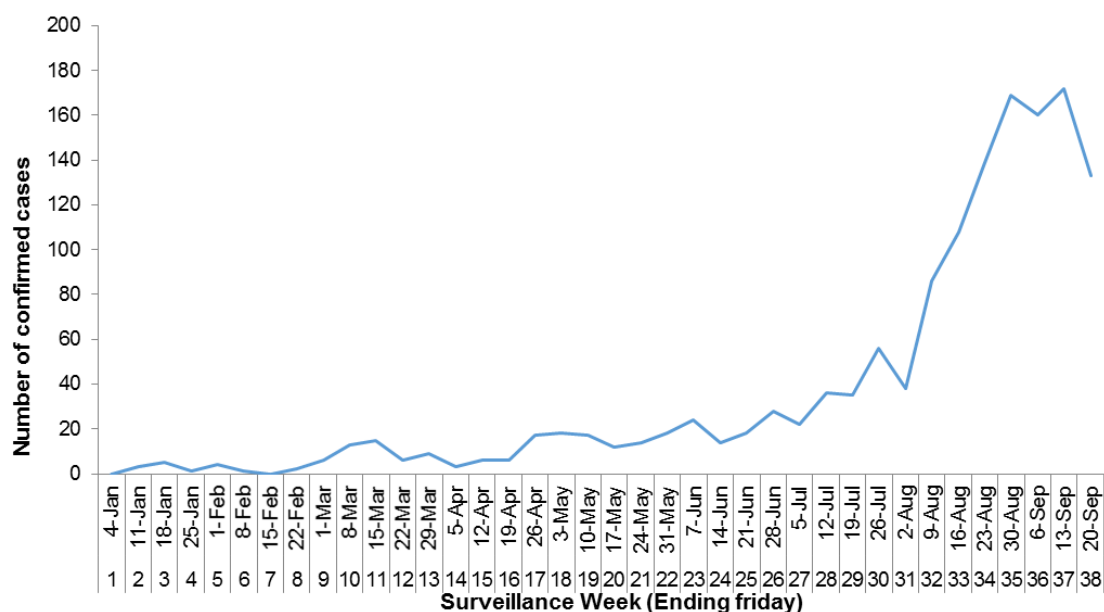


Figure 2. Number of confirmed cases by week and DHB for the last six months, 2019

