

To:	Chief Medical Officers of Health, Hospital Specialists, After-Hours Centres, Emergency Departments, Primary Care providers, Urgent Care providers, GPNZ, Pharmacists, Regional Infection Prevention and Control teams, Regional Occupational Health teams. HealthPathways, Healthline, Ka Ora, HealthEd, Healthify, NPHS national and regional services, regional Comms Leads including Hauora Māori & Pacific Health, Office of the Director of Public Health (Manatū Hauora), PHF-Science
From:	Dr Susan Jack, National Clinical Director Medical Officer of Health, NPHS
Date:	29/09/2025
Title:	Measles update – confirmed measles case in Queenstown, additional cases confirmed in Northland

Please share the following information with relevant staff in your organisation.

Measles update – new confirmed measles case in Queenstown,
additional cases confirmed in Northland

Summary - Queenstown and Northland

The National Public Health Service (NPHS) can confirm there have now been two separate incursions of measles.

One new measles case has been identified in the Queenstown area today (Monday 29 September) following recent travel, which is not linked to the cases identified in the Bay of Islands in Northland.

Since the public health advisory distributed on 26 September, four cases of measles have now been identified in Northland. This includes the case reported on Friday 26 September, plus three associated historical cases reported on Saturday 27 September, one of whom had recently travelled overseas. All four cases in Northland are no longer infectious. This suggests there may have been undetected measles transmission in the community in the Bay of Islands since 3 September.

All cases are being supported by Public Health Services.

Current Locations of Interest are still being assessed. These will continue to be published as they are available on the info.health website: [Measles: Locations of interest in Aotearoa New Zealand](#)

Media releases about both the Queenstown and Northland responses will be published here: [Health New Zealand | News and Updates](#)

With cases confirmed in several locations, and an escalating risk of measles in Australia and other countries New Zealanders travel to, Aotearoa New Zealand is at very high risk of a large outbreak. Population immunity is well below the 95% required to prevent outbreaks. Early identification of measles cases enables a rapid public health response and increases our ability to prevent widespread transmission within the community.

Key actions for healthcare professionals

- Please remain vigilant for people with measles symptoms, including fever, cough and rash, especially in anyone who was present at any of the Locations of Interest identified for these cases. Please also remain alert for measles in anyone returning to Aotearoa from overseas.
- Take a nasopharyngeal viral swab (preferred) or throat swab for measles PCR. Do not test for serology.
- DO NOT send patients to community labs for testing.
- If measles is suspected in the hospital/clinic isolate immediately; advise any discharged patients to isolate at home until contacted by public health.
- Notify immediately on suspicion to public health via electronic referral (where available), and call to notify your local on-call Medical Officer of Health.
- Public Health Service contacts can be found [here](#).
 - For Queenstown and Southern:
 - during office hours 8am and 4:30pm Monday to Friday call 03 450 9156
 - outside of office hours call 03 474 0999 and ask for the on-call Medical Officer of Health.
 - For Northland:
 - during office hours 8am and 4:30pm Monday to Friday call 09 430 4101 extension 60592
 - outside of office hours call 09 430 4100 and ask for the on-call Health Protection Officer.
- Follow usual infection, prevention and control for any suspected measles cases.
- Continue to offer MMR vaccination to anyone whose vaccination status is unknown, or unable to be proven (if no contraindications). There are no concerns with receiving an MMR vaccination even if already immune.
- Encourage MMR vaccination (and other vaccinations) for anyone planning overseas travel.
- Pēpi between the ages of 4-12 months should be considered for an additional free dose of the MMR vaccine early (MMR0) before overseas travel. This dose will need to be given under prescription. Pēpi will still require their scheduled two doses at 12 and 15 months old for long-term protection.
- MMR vaccination is free to anyone aged 18 and under, and adults over the age of 18, if eligible for free New Zealand healthcare. It is also currently free for RSE workers.

Further information

- [HealthPathways Southern](#), [Northland HealthPathways](#) or your local [HealthPathways](#)
- Te Whatu Ora [Measles Guidance](#)
- Healthify – [Measles](#)
- Immunisation Advisory Centre – [Measles Resources](#) Downloadable immunisation collateral for providers about measles is available from the following sources:
 - [Dropbox – National Immunisation Programme – vaccine resources](#)
 - [HealthEd](#)
 - [Bluestar portal](#)