

24 May 2019

Rise in measles cases to 69 across the region

- Cases numbers are rising in a linear progression, at an average of 2 confirmed measles cases a day.
- The majority of cases have been in WDHB (42), with ADHB next in numbers (19).
- Demand for vaccination may increase as ARPHS has informed schools and early childhood education centres (ECECs) that non-immune staff and students may be excluded if there's a case.
- The Ministry is assuring practices that there is sufficient stock of MMR for increased vaccination.
- If your order could not be filled, please order again, as ProPharma does not keep back orders.
- [A Guide to Managing Measles in Primary Care](#) is on the [ARPHS measles webpage](#).

Vaccination supplies

ARPHS has heard that a number of schools have encouraged their staff to get vaccinated, but these staff have been turned away at their GP because of vaccine supply issues.

The Ministry of Health advised yesterday - "There is sufficient stock of MMR vaccine to support your communities, so there should not be any issue with temporary stockouts at ProPharma branches.

"Note that ProPharma does not keep backorders for any of the funded vaccines. This means that if your order is unable to be filled for any reason (including if stock is temporarily unavailable), you will need to place that order again."

Please recall children under 5 who have not had one MMR vaccine. MMR can be offered to children from 6 months if they are travelling overseas. See the Ministry of Health website for more information.

Promotion of vaccination to schools and ECECs

There will be a higher demand for vaccination for pre-schoolers and for school students and staff as result of letters emailed to 1500 schools and ECECs yesterday, asking them to check staff immunity to measles and to inform parents about school exclusions.

Five schools and five early learning services in West and Central Auckland have had measles cases.

ARPHS texting lower risk contacts, such as those in waiting rooms

ARPHS will monitor **confirmed cases, household contacts and contacts at high risk of complications**, as well as **high risk settings such as ECECs**.

We send information to all other contacts by text or letter, explaining immunity and asking non-immune contacts to stay in quarantine.