



FAIRFIELD INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

Dear School Community,

There have been a number of confirmed cases of measles within the Waikato Region. The school would like to take this opportunity to ensure that its immunisation register is up to date. Please read through the information below supplied to us by the Medical Director of Health at Waikato District Health Board and respond accordingly

What is measles?

- Measles is a highly infectious viral disease that can be serious.
- It is spread from person to person through the air by breathing, sneezing or coughing. Just being in the same room as someone with measles can lead to infection if you are not immune.
- The first symptoms of measles are a fever, and one or more of a runny nose, cough and sore red eyes. After a few days a red blotchy rash comes on and lasts up to one week. The rash usually starts on the face and spreads to the rest of the body. Measles can be very serious.

Students and teachers with measles are infectious from 5 days before to 5 days after the onset of rash and must stay away from school/early childhood services and follow the advice of the local Medical Officer of Health.

It is recommended that to help schools in the case of measles case(s), all parents provide documented information regarding 2 doses of MMR to the school over the next few weeks.

- If possible, when seeking documentation from general practice regarding your child's 2 documented doses of MMR to provide to the school/early childhood service, could you please ask them to state clearly that 2 documented doses of MMR have been given, and not just immunised for age.
- For overseas students or where vaccination documentation is from overseas then if possible please get your general practice to sight these to clarify that you have received 2 documented doses of MMR or measles vaccine. Also please ask for them to also state clearly where appropriate that **2 doses of MMR or measles vaccine have been given**. Thanks, this will help the school who are sighting the relevant vaccination documentation

What should you do today?

- Ensure your child is up to date with their immunisations.
- Locate you/your child's immunisation records, either in a Well Child book, or from the GP. This documentation would be required if there was a case of measles in your school in the future.

If you or your child develops symptoms of measles:

- Phone your GP or call Healthline on 0800 611 116 for advice or seek medical attention depending on severity of illness. It is important to call first because measles is highly infectious, and people with measles can infect others in the waiting room.
- Stay at home and away from public places (such as sports events, gatherings, parties, school, work, child care, shopping centres, public transport and so on).

Further information

If you require further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact Population Health (**07 838 2569 or 0800 800 977**) or visit Waikato DHB website: <http://www.waikatodhb.health.nz/public-health-advice/a-z-of-public-health-topics/m-o/measles/>