

Dear Director

RE: MEASLES and IMMUNISATION HISTORY STATEMENTS

NSW is currently experiencing a significant measles outbreak and I am seeking your assistance in preventing the spread of measles by checking that all children in your centre are fully vaccinated.

I would be grateful if you could undertake the following actions as soon as possible, consistent with the *NSW Public Health Act 1991*:

- 1. Ensure that your childcare centre has a system to rapidly identify children for whom an immunisation history statement has not been provided.**
- 2. Request that parents who have not provided an immunisation history statement do so as soon as possible.**
- 3. Inform parents about the current outbreak and advise that if they have not provided an immunisation history statement, their child may be excluded from the centre if a case of measles is detected.**

Parents can obtain an immunisation history statement by contacting Medicare Australia on 1800 653 809 or by visiting their local Medicare office.

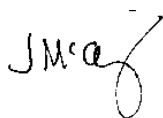
Please use the letter attached as the basis of information provided to parents.

In addition, the National Health and Medical Research Council recommends vaccination with MMR for childcare workers and preschool staff who are not immune to measles. Many adults who were born during or after 1966 will not be immune unless they have received two doses of vaccine. I recommend that you encourage your staff who may not be immune to see their GP for vaccination.

For more information, please call your local public health unit

Camperdown	02 9515 9420	Penrith	02 4734 2022	Broken Hill	08 8080 1499	Newcastle	02 4924 6477
Gosford	02 4349 4845	Randwick	02 9382 8333	Dubbo	02 6841 5569	Port Macquarie	02 6588 2750
Hornsby	02 9477 9400	Albury	02 6080 8900	Goulburn	02 4824 1837	Tamworth	02 6764 8000
Parramatta	02 9840 3603	Bathurst	02 6339 5601	Lismore	02 6620 7500	Wollongong	02 4221 6700

A measles fact sheet is available at: www.health.nsw.gov.au/factsheets/infectious/measles.html



Dr Jeremy McAnulty

Director, Centre for Health Protection
24 March 2011

NSW Department of Health
 ABN 92 697 899 630
 73 Miller St North Sydney NSW 2060
 Locked Mail Bag 961 North Sydney NSW 2059
 Tel (02) 9391 9000 Fax (02) 9391 9101
 Website www.health.nsw.gov.au