

Measles and Immunisation History Statements

Information for parents of children at childcare

Dear Parent or Carer

Measles is currently circulating in NSW and I am asking for your assistance in helping the childcare centre prepare in the event that someone in the centre develops the infection.

- **Ensure your child is immunised against measles. The first dose is due at 12 months and the second dose is due once your child reaches 4 years of age. Please see your GP now if your child is not up to date with vaccinations. The vaccine is free.**
- **Ensure that you have provided the childcare centre with your child's immunisation history statement. The Australian Childhood Immunisation Register routinely mails an immunisation history statement to parents once the child is 18 months of age.**
- **If the childcare centre did not receive an immunisation history statement for your child at enrolment, obtain a new statement now and provide the centre with a copy. You can get a new copy of your child's immunisation history statement by calling Medicare Australia on 1800 653 809 or by visiting a Medicare office.**

If measles is detected at the childcare centre

Children who are not immunised are at risk of infection or may be incubating measles and so may be excluded to protect them and others. If there is a risk of measles in the childcare centre, unimmunised children may not be allowed to attend the centre until the outbreak has been contained. *In this situation, any child for whom no immunisation history statement has been provided will also be excluded.*

Measles - background information

Measles is a serious viral infection and spreads easily. The first symptoms are fever, tiredness, cough, runny nose, sore red eyes and feeling unwell. A few days later a rash appears. The rash starts on the face, spreads down to the body and lasts for 4-7 days.

About a third of people with measles develop complications including ear infections, diarrhoea and pneumonia. About one in every 1000 develop encephalitis (inflammation of the brain).

MMR vaccine is extremely effective in protecting against measles mumps and rubella and is usually given at 12 months and at 4 years of age. Two doses of vaccine will usually give lifelong protection against measles. MMR vaccine is available free from your general practitioner.

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