



Queensland
Government

Metro North
Hospital and Health Service

Dear Doctor

Public Health Alert – Confirmed case of Measles in Brisbane

We have confirmed measles in a recent international traveller. More cases may present in the next few weeks. There is measles transmission in many countries around the globe.

Measles can be a serious illness with complications including pneumonia and encephalitis.

Please notify the public health unit on clinical suspicion of measles. Classical measles presents as generalised macular popular rash which usually begins in the face before spreading to the rest of the body with fever of at least 38 degrees present at the time of the rash onset, and cough, coryza or Koplik spots. Atypical presentations are seen rarely in vaccinated individuals.

The following actions will minimise measles transmission within health facilities:

- Triage patients with fever and rash to a room that can be left vacant for 30 minutes after consultation
- Ensure the patient is wearing a mask in public spaces within the facility
- Ensure the staff in contact with the patient are immune to measles.

PCR testing of throat or nasopharyngeal swabs (not in bacterial culture media) and urine are the initial recommended tests.

Vaccination is very effective with two doses providing 99% protection.

Consider opportunistic vaccination. Vaccinations are recommended and funded for anyone born during or since 1966, and at least 12 months of age if they have not had two documented doses of measles, mumps, rubella (MMR) vaccine or had proven measles.

Due to ongoing measles transmission overseas, it is important to ensure adequate vaccination against measles prior to travel. Children can be vaccinated for measles from the age of 6 months.

Yours sincerely



Mekala Srirajalingam

Public Health Physician

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