

## Measles case alert

Information for ACT Clinicians – 21 February 2023

### Key Points

- ACT Health has been notified of a confirmed case of measles.
- Contact tracing has identified exposure locations in the ACT from **Wednesday 15 February**
- Clinicians should be alert to the potential for secondary measles cases to present between **22 February and 05 March 2023**.
- Infection control precautions are required when assessing patients with a clinically compatible illness.
- Measles vaccination is the best protection against measles – it remains important to ensure patients are up to date with their measles-containing vaccines.
- Measles is a notifiable condition in the ACT. If you have reasonable clinical suspicion of measles in a patient, you must immediately notify ACT Health by phone on **(02) 5124 9213**.

### What is the situation?

- ACT Health has been notified of a confirmed case of measles case in a person who recently returned from international travel.
- Contact tracing has identified exposure locations in the ACT for Wednesday, 15 February 2023. These are listed in the [Public Health Alert: Measles case notified in Canberra | Health \(act.gov.au\)](#).
- Susceptible contacts may develop signs and symptoms of a measles infection between 22 February and 05 March 2023.

### What are the signs and symptoms of measles?

- Contacts may develop symptoms 7 to 18 days following exposure, with day 10 being the most common.
- Symptoms include:
  - A prodrome that includes fever and conjunctivitis, coryza or cough
  - Followed by a generalised maculopapular rash (non-itchy) that usually starts on the face or upper neck and spreads to become generalised
  - Koplik spots may also be present.

### Clinical management

- Healthcare providers should be alert to the signs and symptoms of measles and consider a diagnosis in all patients with a clinically compatible illness, history of exposure (e.g. international travel or contact with someone with measles) and in the context of vaccination status.

- Healthcare providers should avoid or limit any time that a patient with a clinically compatible illness spends in a waiting room. Contacts have been advised to call ahead prior to presenting.
- Where possible, ensure only staff who are fully vaccinated against measles provide care for the patient.
- Use airborne precautions for patients with a clinically compatible illness. Patients should be seen in a single room, which should be left empty for at least 30 minutes after use.
- In a hospital setting, follow relevant Infection Prevention and Control protocols for suspected or confirmed measles cases.
- Immediately notify ACT Health by phone on (02) 5124 9213 to discuss further testing and management of patients with a clinically compatible illness.

### Vaccination

- It remains important to ensure that patients are up to date with recommended immunisations, including MMR.
- For persons born during or after 1966 who do not have documented evidence of 2 doses of measles containing vaccine or serological evidence of immunity, two doses of MMR, given at least 4 weeks apart, are recommended.
- For those known to have received only one dose previously, a second dose is recommended.
- Refer to the [Australian Immunisation Handbook](#) for further information.

### How to Contact ACT Health

- Please contact **ACT Health Communicable Disease Control** for more information or to report a suspected or confirmed measles case via phone on 02 5124 9213.



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