

## **Measles case alert**

### **Information for ACT Clinicians – 25 January 2024**

#### **Key Points**

- **ACT Health has been notified of a confirmed case of measles.**
- **Contact tracing has identified exposure locations in the ACT from Saturday 20th to Monday 22nd January 2024.**
- **Clinicians should be alert to the potential for secondary measles cases to present between 27 January 2024 and 9 February 2024. Clinicians may also see patients presenting requesting vaccination.**
- **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 or you are ordering tests for measles, 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 from 20 to 22 January 2024. These are listed in the Media Alert: Measles case notified in Canberra | Health (act.gov.au) – [\[link\]](#).
- Most contacts will be immune to measles because of past measles infection or immunisation.
- Contacts who are not immune may develop signs and symptoms of a measles infection between 27 January and 9 February 2024.
- ACT Health has advised contacts that have not been vaccinated to get vaccinated as soon as possible.
- ACT Health has also advised contacts who are immunocompromised, are pregnant or have an unvaccinated child under 18 months of age to call ACT Health for further advice. ACT Health will advise these patients on further management, this may include testing immunity, vaccination or providing normal human immunoglobulin.

#### **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



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- 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, or have proven immunity 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 all 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.
- Unvaccinated individuals born during or after 1966 are eligible for an ACT Government funded MMR vaccine.
- 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** for more information or to report a suspected or confirmed measles case via phone on 02 5124 9213.

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25/1/24