



20 May 2016

Dear Principals and Boards of Trustees

Important health information – Measles preparedness

As you may be aware from news reports there are currently people with measles (English measles) in the Waikato, Northland, Nelson and Levin regions.

Measles is a highly infectious and serious illness. **If** a student or staff member is diagnosed with measles in your school, other students and staff (teaching, administration, sports coaches and any other staff that have face to face contact with students) will be required to have written evidence that they have either had two doses of measles vaccine (MMR) after they were 12 months of age or doctor diagnosed measles. This information can be found in you/your child's Wellchild or Plunket book or from a print out from your doctor.

People born before 1 January 1969 are assumed to have immunity to measles as it was circulating in the community at this time. Anyone who does not have evidence of measles immunity will be required to stay off school until 14 days after their contact with the person diagnosed with measles. We also recommend that pupils and staff going on school sports or other trips to regions where there are measles cases are fully vaccinated against measles.

We realise this will be very disruptive to the whole school community and recommend that you share this information with your staff and parents so that they can be prepared and have their documents ready. Measles vaccine is free from medical centres and we strongly encourage anyone who is not vaccinated to get their vaccine as soon as possible. We recommend you consider how your school will collect and store measles immunity information and how you will support the education needs of any students during the time they are required to be off school.

An information sheet about measles can be found at: www.rph.org.nz > Public health topics / Infectious diseases / Measles

Your school public health nurse can provide you with more information and answer any questions you may have.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Annette Nesdale'.

Dr Annette Nesdale
Medical Officer of Health
Regional Public Health