



- Please immediately bring to the attention of all doctors -

Date: 01 June 2009

Contact telephone number: **8226-7177 (24 hours/7 days)**

MEASLES CASE IN ADELAIDE METROPOLITAN REGION

The Communicable Disease Control Branch (CDCB) has been notified of an overseas acquired case of measles in a 34 year-old male from metropolitan Adelaide. During the infectious period, the case travelled from interstate by car, visited the Berri Riverland Plaza shopping centre (1-4 pm Monday 25 May), the Chemist King at Colonel Light Gardens (Wed 27th May 11.15 am-1.15 pm), and the Flinders Medical Centre (Thursday 27th May after 5 pm). Interstate public health authorities have been informed.

The CDCB, Infection Control staff at the Flinders Medical Centre, and staff at a Colonel Light Gardens surgery are contacting those who may have been exposed to the case to provide information and, where indicated, offering vaccine or immunoglobulin. Please be aware that secondary cases may occur in the community from now onwards.

DOCTORS ARE THEREFORE ASKED TO:

Urgently notify any patient suspected to have measles to the Communicable Disease Control Branch, by phoning 8226-7177 (24 hours/7 days).

For all suspected cases of measles:

- Arrange **urgent laboratory testing** through SA Pathology including measles-specific IgM and IgG (clotted serum tube) for confirmation of the diagnosis. *Also* send un-clotted blood in an anti-coagulated (full blood count) tube, a throat swab in viral transport medium, and if possible, urine in a yellow top container. Store all at 4^o C.
- **Isolate** suspected and confirmed measles cases and exclude from child-care/school/ workplace for at least four days *after* the appearance of the rash.
- Ensure that all household and other contacts are protected against measles (**vaccine or immunoglobulin**) as indicated in the Australian Immunisation Handbook 9th Ed p 209-211.

Minimise transmission of measles in the surgery:

- Examine patients suspected of having measles in their own homes wherever possible.
- Have the suspected case avoid using the waiting room; and conduct the consultation in a room that can be left vacant for at least two hours afterwards.
- Treat people who attend the rooms within two hours of the infectious patient as contacts.

Maintain surveillance for measles cases in your practice.

Review the vaccination status of all persons born during or since 1966 who attend your practice for any reason, and offer MMR vaccination to all susceptible people. (Routine free vaccine is offered to children aged 12 months and 4 years).

Measles is a highly infectious acute viral illness transmitted by aerosol spread. The incubation period is about 10 days (range 7-18 days) to onset of prodromal symptoms and about 14 days to the appearance of the rash. The infectious period is from 5 days before the appearance of the rash until 4 days after the appearance of the rash. The illness is characterised by cough, coryza, conjunctivitis, a descending morbilliform rash, and **fever present at the time of rash onset**.

For all enquiries please contact the Communicable Disease Control Branch on 8226 7177 (24 hours/7 days).

Dr Ann Koehler - Director, Communicable Disease Control Branch

Information contained within this advice should be treated as confidential and is for the intended recipient only.

PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT