



Public Health Unit
Metro South Health

Enquiries to: CDC
Telephone: 3156 4000

Measles – Information for Contacts

Dear Parent, students and staff,

You and / or your child have been identified as a contact of a case of measles infection in a person who attended **Greenbank State School** from **17 October 2019 to 18 October 2019**, while infectious. The person did not know they had measles at the time.

Measles is a highly infectious disease that is spread when an infected person coughs or sneezes. It is also spread by direct contact with respiratory secretions or with soiled articles (such as dirty tissues). Just being in the same room as someone with measles can result in infection. Most people have immunity to measles from previous vaccinations or infection and will not get the disease.

Measles can cause serious complications, as explained in the factsheet available at <http://conditions.health.qld.gov.au/HealthCondition/condition/14/217/91/Measles>.

A non-immune person who has had contact with measles is at risk of developing measles. Some people may have a higher risk of severe measles. Please advise your doctor if any of the following apply:

- You are pregnant and have no documented evidence of immunity to measles
- You are immunocompromised
- You had an infant with you when you were at **Greenbank State School** and the infant is too young (<12 months) to have received an MMR vaccine.

How do I know if I am immune to measles?

The following are criteria for immunity to measles:

- You were born before 1st January 1966; or
- You have had two documented doses of a measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine; or
- You have measles immunity proven on blood testing; or
- You have had laboratory-confirmed measles disease.

If you were born on or after 1st January 1966 and have received **one** documented dose of a measles containing vaccine, then Public Health recommends that you receive an MMR vaccine to complete your recommended vaccination schedule. This vaccine can be obtained from your usual medical practitioner and funded by Queensland Health.

What should I do if I am not immune to measles?

Non-immune staff, parents and students may be eligible for an injection of Normal Human Immunoglobulin (NHIG), if indicated as per our National Guidelines. NHIG should usually be reserved for contacts at **higher risk** of severe measles, such as pregnant women, people who are immunocompromised and infants too young to be vaccinated. NHIG provides immediate but *short-term* protection against measles.

Please note that the NHIG is not recommended after **23 October 2019 at 2.30 pm**.

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Non-immune people who are not offered NHIG may receive a MMR vaccine. However, this vaccine will not be soon enough to protect you or your child from this exposure to measles. The MMR vaccine would provide you with protection if exposed to measles in the future.

If you or your child are not immune to measles, we recommend you and/or your child are **excluded from attendance in childcare or school or work in healthcare settings** until and including **5 November 2019** to protect others. If you attend other work settings, please let your doctor know.

If you or your child develop symptoms of measles (such as fever, rash and red or inflamed eyes):

- Avoid contact with others. Do not attend public places (such as work, school, childcare or shopping centres) or use public transport.
- See your doctor as soon as possible so a diagnosis can be confirmed. It is important to call your GP, any acute care provider or pathology service you might need to attend, ahead of time to alert them of your symptoms and to allow them to make arrangements to assess you safely and without infecting other people.

Please read the measles factsheet available at <http://conditions.health.qld.gov.au/HealthCondition/condition/14/217/91/Measles> . If you have any questions, please speak with your doctor or contact 13Health.

Yours sincerely,

Priya Janagaraj for

Dr Kari Jarvinen

Public Health Physician

Metro South Public Health Unit

21 October 2019