

28 August 2019

From Auckland Regional Public Health Service (ARPHS)

Advice for ALL Schools attending Winter Tournament Week in Auckland or with Auckland participants

Measles is circulating across Auckland and in a number of secondary schools. Please consider the possibility that a student or staff participating in the event could be in the early stages of measles, even though they do not appear unwell.

Even in the early stages of measles, they can spread it to other people, especially when staying in close quarters or through close contact in sport.

For tournament week, ARPHS strongly recommends that all Auckland schools and schools with Auckland participants:

1. Do not include anyone who is unwell with any of the symptoms of measles - fever, runny nose, cough, sore red eyes or rash.
2. Request proof of vaccination with at least one measles mumps rubella MMR for all travelling students and accompanying adults (if under 50 years.)
3. This will allow you to know which students and adults are vaccinated and who is not, so the manager can isolate any non-immune person at the first sign of illness.
4. Know the symptoms of measles. People are contagious before they get a rash. If any student or travelling adult shows any signs of measles, please have a plan to isolate them. Providing a mask is not enough.
5. Safely seek healthcare for anyone who becomes ill when you are away- call first and mention measles, rather than just showing up
6. Please understand how measles is spread – it is spread by airborne droplets of virus particles (not by sharing drink bottles or through food preparation).
7. Be prepared – have a thermometer and masks in your first aid bag.

ARPHS realises that these sports tournaments are very important for schools and for students. It is important to balance this, however, with the risk of spreading measles amongst your students, and to others outside of Auckland.

There is more information for Auckland schools on managing measles under Education Providers [on our website](#).

For schools outside of Auckland, please consult with your local public health unit.

Thank you for your support



Dr Julia Peters

Clinical Director

Auckland Regional Public Health Service