

Measles information for parents

There have so far been no confirmed cases of measles in Taranaki, but parents and caregivers still need to be aware of the signs and symptoms of the illness.

Your child may have measles if they have not been vaccinated and have:

- A fever of 38.5C AND
- A runny nose, sore red eyes or a cough
- A rash 3-5 days later which usually starts on the head and spreads down the body

If you think you or your child might have measles, **you need to keep them home from school** and away from public places and other people. Measles is highly contagious from before symptoms start until 5 days after the rash has appeared.

Please contact your doctor or **Healthline on 0800 611116 for more advice** and let your school or early childhood centre know that your child may have measles.

Vaccination is the best protection against measles.

Children are routinely immunised with the MMR vaccine at age 15 months and 4 years.

Children are considered 'fully immunised' against measles when they have two documented MMR vaccinations.

Please contact your doctor to make sure you and your family are protected.

For more information about measles please visit: <https://www.health.govt.nz/your-health/conditions-and-treatments/diseases-and-illnesses/measles>