

14 April 2014

Mr Kyle Levenberg

Email: fyi – request – 1548 – 31a32085@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Levenberg

Re Official Information Act

I refer to your Official Information Act request dated 18 March 2014 requesting the following information:

Thank you for your Official Information Act request dated 18 March 2014.
You requested the following information:

1. Documentation detailing the Auckland DHB's official policy in regards to unimmunized children at school and school events, particularly at times of a breakout

Please find the protocol and standard communications provided to school in the event of an outbreak of a communicable disease. A regional body, the Auckland Regional Public Health Service (ARPHS) is responsible for public health prevention and response. The common communicable diseases affecting school children are measles, mumps and rubella. The policies and standard communications relating to these are attached.

2. Any written documentation provided to Auckland schools in 2013-2014 regarding how they should respond to the presence of an unimmunized child, particularly in regards to exclusion of the child from school and school events

Please find attached the template Auckland DHB has used to notify 21 schools about their obligations during outbreaks.

Under the act you have the right to complain to the Ombudsman should you be unhappy with this response.

Yours faithfully



Ailsa Claire, OBE
Chief Executive

Enc.

MEASLES, MUMPS AND RUBELLA

NORMAL AND AFTER HOURS PROTOCOL

**APPROVED BY THE ARPHS PROFESSIONAL
AND CLINICAL DIRECTOR**

1.1.1 Case exclusion

Exclude case from ECEC, school, work and close contact with previously unexposed persons for four days after the appearance of the rash. Exclusion of cases from school or ECECs is mandated by the Health (Infectious and Notifiable Diseases) Regulations 1966 and the Education (Early Childhood Centres) Regulations 1998.

Schools

	Not immunised or unknown	1 doses of MMR	2 doses of MMR
First contact less than 72 hours ago	Exclude Give PEP MMR1	Exclude until MMR2	Nil
First contact more than 72 hours ago	Exclude Consider NHIG if immunocompromised Recommend MMR1	Exclude until MMR2	Nil
Classroom Staff	Exclude until immune status known unless born before 1.1.1969 Recommend MMR1 unless pregnant (consider NHIG)	Exclude until serology or MMR2 unless born before 1.1.1969	Nil

Primary School: PH staff will visit school, review Immunisation Register. Assess transmission risk for groups within school and apply criteria accordingly.

Secondary School: MOH/MO/PHN to liaise with principal and apply criteria accordingly.

1.1.2 Contact exclusion

- Unvaccinated susceptible contacts should be excluded from school and early childhood services from 7 days after the first contact with the case during the infectious period until 14 days after the last contact with any case while infectious. If further cases occur, extend exclusion period until 4 days have elapsed from onset of rash in the last case. These contacts need to be excluded even if they receive MMR1 immunisation as a part of contact management, as they may be incubating the disease (ARPHS Measles Technical Advisory Group (TAG) decision 07/2009) (see [section Error! Reference source not found.](#)). Use the template letters ([Appendix 3](#) and [Appendix 4](#)) for communicating with parents.
- Age appropriately immunised children aged 15 months to 3 years need not be excluded unless symptomatic or some reason to suspect vaccine failure, but ARPHS recommends they receive MMR2.
- Children aged 4 or over who have only had MMR1 are considered susceptible and are excluded. If given MMR2 more than 28 days after MMR1 exclusion ceases.
- Exclusion of contacts from school or ECECs is mandated by the Health (Infectious and Notifiable Diseases) Regulations 1966 and the Education (Early Childhood Centres) Regulations 1998.
- No exclusion is necessary for non-susceptible contacts.

1.1.3 Advice and counselling

- Advise about the nature of the infection and the mode of transmission.
- Encourage immunisation with MMR to protect against future exposure.
- Advise vaccinated school or ECEC contacts to monitor for signs or symptoms of measles: use the template letter in [Appendix 4](#) for this purpose.
- Encourage unvaccinated susceptible contacts who were exposed outside the school or ECEC context to monitor for signs and symptoms of measles and to avoid mixing with people in the community, such as would occur at extended family gatherings or community events, for 14 days after their last exposure to an infectious case. Use the template in [Appendix 5](#) as required, modified as necessary.

Auckland Regional Public Health Service

Rātonga Hauora ā Iwi o Tamaki Makaurau



Working with the people of Auckland, Waitemata and Counties Manukau

INFORMATION FOR PEOPLE IN QUARANTINE FOR MEASLES

Watch out for measles symptoms until [Date], if well resume normal activity the next day.

People who are in quarantine should remain at home and away from school/work, group and social activities, sports and recreation events and public places such as cinemas and shopping malls for 14 days since their last contact with an infectious case of measles.

To limit the spread of measles, ARPHS can quarantine (exclude) susceptible people from school, work and other activities.

ARPHS' role is to limit the spread of measles as much as possible, particularly to protect vulnerable people in the community, including:

- children too young to be immunized
- pregnant women
- those with suppressed immunity (such as people with immune diseases or on treatment such as chemotherapy).

To break the chain of transmission of measles it is important that anyone at risk of developing measles does not have any contact with vulnerable and susceptible people (people who are not immune to measles).

We also urge people to be vigilant if they suspect they could have measles, or have been exposed to someone who could have measles. Look out for the signs and symptoms including:

- a runny nose
- cough
- sore eyes
- fever
- a raised red rash that starts on the face and moves to cover the rest of the body.

If you think you or someone in your care has measles contact Healthline on 0800 611 116 or your local doctor. Phone ahead before visiting a doctor so they can minimise the spread of infection to others in the waiting room. It is also important that if you suspect you may have measles, or you have had contact with someone suspected to have measles and you are not immune, that you remain in isolation to limit the spread of the disease.

We strongly advise immunisation against measles in all contacts.

Auckland Regional Public Health Service

Rātonga Hauora ā Iwi o Tamaki Makaurau



Auckland Regional Public Health Service

Cornwall Complex, Floor 2, Building 15
Greenlane Clinical Centre, Auckland
Private Bag 92 605, Symonds Street,
Auckland 1150, New Zealand
Telephone: 09 623 4600
Facsimile: 09 623 4633
Website: www.arphs.govt.nz

Dear Parent or Guardian

Measles at [name of school/ECEC]

A child at [name of school/ECEC] has recently been reported to Auckland Regional Public Health Service with measles. I am writing to you because your child may have been exposed to this infection. Measles is a serious viral infection that causes fever, cough, rash and sore eyes. Occasionally measles has dangerous complications. Measles is highly infectious.

Health records at [name of school/ECEC] indicate that your child [child's name] has not been fully immunised against measles and therefore may be at risk of infection ("susceptible"). Your child is considered potentially susceptible if:

- He or she has not received the correct number of a measles vaccines for their age (in New Zealand this is given in the Measles-Mumps-Rubella (MMR) vaccine)
- He or she has not had measles previously diagnosed by a doctor
- He or she has not had immunity shown on a blood test

The school's records may not be up to date, so if your child has been immunised, you can obtain an immunisation certificate from your doctor.

If your child is 4 or over and has received one dose of MMR vaccine more than a month ago he or she should receive a second dose of MMR vaccine through your doctor, and can then return. Please refer to the attached information.

Measles can easily spread to and from unimmunised children so your child will not be allowed to attend [school/ECEC], and should stay in quarantine (see attached information) until the risk period has passed, in accordance with the Health (Infectious and Notifiable Diseases) Regulations 1966. The risk period extends to [end of exclusion period]. Children with two previous measles immunisations or measles infection need not stay away from [school/ECEC]. If you believe this is the case, please call Auckland Regional Public Health Service on 623 4600 to discuss.

Your child may already have been infected with measles. Please refer to the attached factsheet for more information about measles. If your child develops symptoms:

- see a doctor (call ahead to alert your doctor about the possibility of measles before visiting and take this letter along)
- ring Healthline on 0800 611 116;

Immunisation against measles is the most effective way to prevent infection.

Yours sincerely

Dr [name]
[designation]
Auckland Regional Public Health Services