



KOHIA TERRACE SCHOOL

Tuesday 11 March 2014

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

I have been advised that between late December 2013 and 24th February 2014, there have been 47 confirmed measles cases in New Zealand, 29 of those in Auckland. In most cases have occurred in unimmunised people. Whilst we have NOT had any reported cases at Kohia, we are in the process of checking all our immunisation records as advised by the Ministry of Health.

Measles is a serious and highly infectious viral disease. Symptoms include fever, cough, sore red eyes and a rash (three days after the other symptoms start). People with measles can be infectious even before they start feeling unwell. While almost all people will make a complete recovery, it can lead to hospitalisation and in rare cases, death. **Parents/guardians need to find out whether their children are protected against measles.**

Regarding your child's immunisation status:

- **If your child has not received a measles immunisation (MMR vaccine),** call your GP as soon as possible. Arrange a time to immunise your child as it is never too late.
- **If your child has received one measles immunisation (i.e. one MMR vaccination),** call your GP as soon as possible. Arrange a time to immunise your child with their 2nd MMR. Two measles immunisations provide better protection than one.
- **If your child has received two measles immunisations, or they have definitely had doctor-diagnosed measles infection in the past,** they are considered protected. Over 95% of people who are fully immunised are protected from measles.
- **If you are not sure of your child's immunisation records,** check with your GP. They can do a blood test to check your child's immunity to measles if needed.
- **If your child is not immune or you choose not to immunise your child,** they are not protected from measles. If they come into contact with someone with measles, they will likely have to be excluded from school for up to 14 days.

If you have updated your child's immunisations, please email Kay (kay@kts.school.nz).

For more information on immunisation, please call the Immunisation Advisory Centre free on 0800 IMMUNE (0800 466 863) or visit their website <http://www.immune.org.nz>

Kind regards

Alison Spence
Principal

"the power to dream, the passion to achieve"