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BAT EXPOSURES

(or mammals overseas)

**CONTACT THE PHU
IMMEDIATELY**

The PneumoSmart vaccination tool

Brilliant tool to assist with pneumococcal schedules for all ages and all risk factors.

[https://
immunisationcoalition.org.au/pvt/
index.php](https://immunisationcoalition.org.au/pvt/index.php)

Contact your PHU for Immunisation enquiries

Phone: 1300 066 055

Fax: 4924 6490

Email:

HNELHD-PHImmunisation
@health.nsw.gov.au

Measles Alert

There is a Measles crisis in Samoa, Tonga, New Zealand and Fiji.

- As of 12 December 2019 there have been 72 deaths, mostly small children. There have been over 5000 cases in a country with a population of 201,000
- Cases of measles have been reported in people returning or travelling from these countries.
- Consider measles in returning travellers with fever, and in anyone with fever and a maculopapular rash.

How to manage suspected cases

1. **Isolate** - arrange to see suspected cases in their homes or at the end of the day.
2. **Notify** - inform your public health unit (PHU) **immediately (1300 066 055)** – don't wait for test results before calling. The earlier a PHU knows about a suspected case the more effective containment interventions can be.
3. **Test** - collect a nose and throat specimen, and a first pass urine sample for nucleic acid testing and blood for measles serology. Mark all specimens as URGENT. Your PHU can assist in expediting testing, if indicated.
4. **Display resources** - posters and brochures alerting people to these outbreaks are available in English, Tongan and Samoan [https://
www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/measles/Pages/resources.aspx](https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/measles/Pages/resources.aspx)
5. **Remain alert** - be on the look-out for new imports following holiday travel, and potentially locally acquired cases [https://
www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/measles/Pages/
default.aspx](https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/measles/Pages/default.aspx)



Who should you immunise?

- **Any person born since 1966 who have not previously had two documented doses at least 1 month apart.**
- **Infants from 6 months of age if they are travelling overseas** - will need to be repeated at 12 & 18 months of age.
- It is safe to have another measles vaccine if not sure of previous doses, especially if travelling overseas. Measles vaccine is funded in NSW. Do not provide a script - use the vaccine in your fridge—remember MMRV vaccine is not recommended for people over 14 years of age and over, MMR should be used.

Vaccine storage over summer - fires & storms!

- Keep vaccine supplies to a minimum, you can order twice a month.
- Ensure your min/max thermometer and data logger are working correctly and activated.
- In case of power failure it may be more beneficial to leave vaccines in the fridge, (cover door, door taped closed).
- We now have thermostability data we can apply when breaches occur, however to apply this data we must know the exact temperatures and length of times exposed outside 2-8 degrees.
- Guidelines do recommend back up storage be available, however if vaccines are moved to an alternative facility, continuous data logging must be undertaken.

Contact your local PHU for advice - do not discard any vaccines until spoken to PHU.



LogTag computerised data temperature loggers

LogTag support have advised that their LogTag logger should last 2-3 years maximum.

They also recommend it be replaced as soon as battery reads low or it will start to give strange readings (eg. minus 10).

LogTag now have a new logger that battery can be replaced (battery change recommended every 12-18 months).

NSW Vaccine Centre hours over the Christmas period

The NSW Vaccine Centre will be closed for routine deliveries over the Christmas/New Year period.

Last despatch for non-metropolitan areas will be Thursday 19 December for delivery Friday 20 December. Non-metro orders must be placed before 2.30pm on Wednesday 18 December to be delivered by Friday 20 December.

Orders placed after these times will be held in the online ordering system and delivered in the week commencing 6 January 2020.

Post exposure treatment for Australian bat lyssavirus and rabies exposures

If you have a patient who reports they have been bitten or scratched by a bat in Australia or a mammal overseas, PLEASE CONTACT THE PHU (1300 066 055) WHILE THE PATIENT IS WITH YOU, to discuss a treatment plan. This is regardless of time since exposure.

Immunisation in Medicine Today - excellent reading - keep current with immunisation

“Keeping up with vaccinations. What's new, what's available and who to ask for help.”

<https://medicinetoday.com.au/2019/october/regular-series/keeping-up-with-vaccinations?page=5>

TOPICS:

- Two doses of the MMR vaccine for all
- **Pregnancy and vaccination**
- **Pneumococcal disease**, The PneumoSmart vaccination tool - an amazing tool to assist with the complex pneumococcal schedule for all patients. <https://immunisationcoalition.org.au/pvt/index.php>
- Q fever
- Catch-up vaccinations
- Adverse events following immunisation