

Tuesday, 3 October 2017

MEASLES ALERT - SUTHERLAND SHIRE

South Eastern Sydney Local Health District (SESLHD) is again urging people who have been in the Sutherland Shire between 25 September and 1 October 2017, to be aware of the symptoms of measles, after a person that was infectious with measles visited the following areas on multiple occasions during that period.

Specific areas that the person visited during this period include:

- Cronulla Mall, 25 September, morning
- Aldi, Menai, 25 September and 28 September, both approximately 3.00 – 5.00pm
- Royal Hotel, Sutherland, 26 September at lunchtime
- Southgate Shopping Centre, Sylvania, 29 September, approximately 4.30 - 5.30pm
- Coles and Shopping Centre, Sutherland, 1 October, afternoon
- Sutherland Hospital, in or passing through the Emergency Department from 8.00 - 11.00am on 29 September, and 10.30pm on 1 October to 3.00am on 2 October.

Please note – there is no ongoing risk of measles at the above venues.

While there are no direct connections to the Sutherland Shire measles case reported two weeks ago, this case most likely acquired their infection from that case. There are no links with the Northern Sydney case reported earlier today.

Measles is highly infectious. Symptoms include fever, sore eyes and a cough followed a few days later by a non-itchy rash, when the fever is still present. Measles can have serious complications, particularly for young children or people with weakened immune systems.

Older infants, children and adults born after 1965 who do not have records of receiving two doses of Measles-Mumps-Rubella (MMR) vaccine, or evidence of previous measles infection, are susceptible to measles.

Professor Mark Ferson, Public Health Director, South Eastern Sydney Local Health District, said that anyone over 12 months of age who has not received one dose of MMR; and anyone over 18 months who has not received two doses of vaccine with the measles component and may have been in the above specific areas on 1 to 2 October, is urged to attend their general practitioner for vaccination **within 72 hours** of their presence in these areas.

“The measles virus is highly contagious and is spread through the air by someone who is unwell with the disease, Professor Ferson said.

“People with measles symptoms should stay home from school or work and not go out in public. “We recommend medical attention be sought, but if you or your child shows these symptoms you should call the doctor’s surgery or medical centre **before** you go in, so they can make

arrangements to see you without the risk of you spreading the virus to other people,”

Measles is very common in some countries. People who travel overseas should discuss with their doctor before they travel whether they need the measles vaccination.

The measles vaccine is free to unvaccinated individuals born during or after 1966.

For more information on measles, visit:

http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/factsheets/Pages/Measles_Factsheet.aspx.