

Wednesday, 11 October 2017

## MEASLES ALERT - SUTHERLAND SHIRE

South Eastern Sydney Local Health District is again urging people to be aware of the symptoms of measles, after two further cases in adults were confirmed yesterday. No direct link between the two new cases has so far been identified. This brings to four the number of measles cases notified in Sutherland Shire residents in the past month.

These two recent cases are not linked to the North Shore case. Any possible links between the two new cases and previous Sutherland Shire cases are being investigated.

The measles vaccine is free to all NSW residents aged between 1 and 51 years of age who have not already had two documented doses of vaccine. For those who are unsure whether they have had the measles vaccine it is safe to have the vaccine a second time.

Specific areas that one or the other case visited during this period are:

- Victoria Park Pool, Camperdown, 30 September, 9am-3pm
- Pilgrim's, Cronulla, 30 September, 8-9.30pm
- Heart & Soul Café, Cronulla, 1 October, 2-5pm
- Train from Engadine to Martin Place, 3 and 4 October, about 8-9.30am
- Train from Martin Place to Engadine, 3 and 4 October, about 5-7pm
- 20 Martin Place, City, 3 and 4 October, approximately 9am-6pm
- MLC Centre Food Court, City, 3 and 4 October, lunchtime
- Sutherland Hospital Emergency Department, 3 October, 6pm-12midnight; and 9 October, 5.25-6.45pm
- Kirrawee Pharmacy, Kirrawee 4 October, 11-11.30am
- Head Academy Kung Fu Centre, Caringbah, 7 October, 10.30am-1pm

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

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.

Professor Mark Ferson, Public Health Director, South Eastern Sydney Local Health District, said that 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.

“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.

For more information on measles, visit:

[http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/factsheets/Pages/Measles\\_Factsheet.aspx](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/factsheets/Pages/Measles_Factsheet.aspx).