

3 November, 2018

MEASLES ALERT

Please attribute to Dr Catherine Bateman-Steel, Acting Director Public Health, South Eastern Local Health District

The South Eastern Sydney Local Health District Public Health Unit is asking people to watch for measles symptoms after a child was diagnosed with a highly infectious virus.

The child visited various locations while infectious. Anyone who was at these locations and who develops measles-like symptoms should consult their GP immediately.

- Westfield Miranda on Sunday 28 October, 2pm to 3.30pm and Tuesday 30 October, 2pm to 4pm
- Sylvania Heights Community Club on Monday 29 October, 10.30am to 11.30am
- Sutherland Hospital Emergency Department on Wednesday 31 October, 4.30pm to Thursday 1 November 4.00am
- Sydney Children's Hospital Emergency Department on Thursday 1 November, 3.30am to 11am

Symptoms include fever, sore eyes and a cough followed three or four days later by a red, blotchy rash spreading from the head and neck to the rest of the body.

If you develop symptoms, please call ahead to your GP or hospital to ensure arrangements can be made to minimise the risk of infection to others before arrival.

The measles virus is highly contagious and is spread in the air through coughing or sneezing by someone who is unwell with the disease. The time from exposure to onset of symptoms is generally about 10 days, but can be as long as 18 days.

Vaccination is the best protection against measles and we encourage everyone to check their immunisation status to reduce their risk of acquiring the disease.

Protecting children from potentially deadly diseases is a key priority for the NSW Government, which has invested approximately \$130 million in the 2018-19 Immunisation Program budget, including Commonwealth and state vaccines.

The latest Annual Immunisation Coverage Report shows vaccination rates in NSW are at their highest level ever, with more than 94 per cent of five year olds vaccinated against measles.

NSW Health offers free MMR (measles-mumps-rubella) vaccine through GPs for people with no records of having received two doses of MMR vaccine.

For more information on measles, go to

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

For further information contact 1300 066 055 to be directed to your local Public Health Unit.