



- Please immediately bring to the attention of all doctors -

Date: 8 November 2016 Contact telephone number: 1300 232 272 (24 hours/7 days)

## Measles outbreak in Gawler continues

SA Health has been notified of a confirmed case of measles in a 33 year old female from metropolitan Adelaide. The case was acquired in the Gawler area. The case was in the settings listed below whilst infectious:

- Gawler Health Service
  - from 07:00 until 16:00 on Tuesday 1 November
  - from 12:00 until 12:45 and 13:30 until 18:30 on Wednesday 2 November
  - from 07:00 until 16:00 on Friday 4 November
  - from 13:00 until 22:00 on Saturday 5 November.
- Java Hut, 69 Murray St, Gawler from 10:15 until 12:00 on Wednesday 2 November.
- Gawler Flower Gallery, 61 Murray St, Gawler from 11:30 until 12:15 on Wednesday 2 November.
- Angle Vale Family Practice, 121-129 Heaslip Rd, Angle Vale from 14:30 until 15:15 on Thursday 3 November.
- Royal Adelaide Hospital Emergency Department from 16:15 until 22:45 on Sunday 6 November.

Measles is transmitted via respiratory aerosols that remain a risk to others for up to 30 minutes after the person has left the area. The incubation period is about 10 days (range 7 to 18 days) to the onset of prodromal symptoms and about 14 days to rash appearance. **The illness is characterised by cough, coryza, conjunctivitis, a descending morbilliform rash, and fever present at the time of rash onset.** The infectious period is from 4 days before to 4 days after the appearance of the rash.

### Doctors with patients suspected of having measles are asked to:

- **Notify urgently** any patient with **suspected** measles to the CDCB on **1300 232 272 (24 hours/7 days)**. Do not wait for laboratory confirmation.
- **Arrange urgent laboratory testing** through SA Pathology. Take throat swabs in viral transport medium for measles PCR (preferred specimen) and urine for measles PCR (yellow top container).
- **Isolate** suspected and confirmed measles cases and exclude from child-care/ school/ workplace for at least 4 days after rash appearance.
- **Ensure** all household and other contacts are protected against measles as indicated in the Australian Immunisation Handbook.  
<http://www.immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/Handbook10-home>
- **Minimise transmission of measles:**
  - Examine patients suspected of having measles in their own homes wherever possible.
  - Ensure the patient is only seen by practice staff who have confirmed immunity to measles.
  - Ensure suspected cases do not use the waiting room, and conduct the consultation in a room that can be left vacant for at least 30 minutes afterwards.

### Measles vaccination

- Two doses of a measles containing vaccine are highly effective at preventing measles. Offer measles vaccine (unless contraindicated, for example in pregnant women or immunosuppression) to all potentially susceptible persons who attend your practice.

Further clinical information is available at [www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/InfectiousDiseaseControl](http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/InfectiousDiseaseControl) and recent public health alerts are available at [www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/HealthAlerts](http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/HealthAlerts)

For all enquires please contact the CDCB on 1300 232 272 (24 hours/7 days)

Dr Ann Koehler – Director, Communicable Disease Control Branch