



- Please immediately bring to the attention of all doctors -

Date: 25 October 2016 Contact telephone number: **1300 232 272 (24 hours/7 days)**

Measles in Gawler

SA Health has been notified of a confirmed case of measles in a 42 year old male from metropolitan Adelaide. The case is locally acquired, likely in the Gawler area. The case was in the settings listed below whilst infectious:

- Hy-Drive Engineering, 59 Wingfield Rd, Wingfield, from 07:00 until 15:30 on Monday 17 October, and from 07:00 until 11:30 on Tuesday 18 October.
- Hyde and Partners Medical Centre, 6 Adelaide Rd, Gawler, from 15:30 until 16:45 on Tuesday 18 October, and 15:30 until 16:30 on Thursday 20 October.
- Gawler Health Service, from 10:30 until 13:00 on Saturday 22 October, and 08:00 until 11:00 on Sunday 23 October.

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. Doctors can take throat swabs in viral transport medium for 'measles PCR' (preferred specimen) and urine for 'measles PCR' (yellow top container) at their practice.
- **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 (documented history of 2 measles-containing vaccines OR measles IgG positive serology).
 - 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.
 - Treat all people who attend the rooms within 30 minutes of the infectious patient as contacts.

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.
- Measles vaccine should be considered in susceptible persons prior to overseas travel.

Further clinical information is available at www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/InfectiousDiseaseControl and recent public health alerts are available at 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