MEASLES ALERT – METRO NORTH PUBLIC HEALTH UNIT

SUBJECT: Measles Case in Camp Mountain, Brisbane North

Pages 2 (Inclusive)

Metro North Public Health Unit (MNPHU) is warning the public to be alert to the symptoms of measles after measles has been reported in a person residing in the suburb of Camp Mountain. Please be on the lookout for secondary cases in the next few weeks.

Measles transmission occurs readily in medical and associated settings to contacts including patients and staff. This has occurred several times in Queensland in recent years.

The following will minimise the risk of transmission within facilities:

- Triage patients with fever and rash directly to a room that can be left vacant for at least 30 minutes after consultation. Where practicable, examine cases of suspected measles at home.
- Ensure that the patient is wearing a surgical mask while in surgery, particularly if they need to walk through the surgery or shared areas.
- Ensure all practice staff born since 1966 who could have contact with measles cases are either fully vaccinated (2 doses of MMR) or have serological evidence of measles immunity.

Management of measles in a clinical setting:

- Check that the symptoms satisfy the clinical criteria for diagnosis of measles:
  - Generalised, non-itchy maculopapular rash (usually beginning on the face or upper neck); and
  - Fever of at least 38 degrees, still present at the time of rash onset; and
  - Cough or coryza or conjunctivitis or Koplik’s spots.
• Ask if the patient has been overseas or in contact with a confirmed case in the last 3 weeks (note that lack of history of travel does not exclude measles). If the case does not satisfy the clinical criteria, or if the person has received 2 doses of MMR, measles is unlikely.

• If the case satisfies the clinical criteria, organise the appropriate laboratory tests. Mark request form as URGENT.
  o 0-3 weeks after rash onset: urine and throat or nasopharyngeal swab for measles PCR and blood for measles IgM and IgG
  o >3 weeks after rash onset: blood for measles IgM and IgG

• Notify MNPHU immediately of any case satisfying the clinical criteria. MNPHU will liaise with the testing laboratory to ensure that appropriate infection control measures are taken to avoid exposure of other clients and staff, and will advise you whether any additional measures are required in your practice e.g. vaccination of exposed staff/patients.

• A measles fact sheet and other measles resources are available at: http://conditions.health.qld.gov.au/HealthCondition/condition/14/217/91/Measles

• Please also consider opportunistic vaccination for any unimmunised patients attending for any reason. It is particularly important for travellers to be adequately vaccinated before leaving Australia.