

# **MEASLES response**

## **Immunisation Primary & Community Care Update**

### **As we approach the holiday season,**

We would like to thank you for the work you have done to improve immunisation coverage this year. Real progress has been made and this should be celebrated.

We acknowledge that rest is important to teams but we kindly request that to maintain momentum and access to immunisation, that general practice services are available on the weekdays between the statutory holidays over the Christmas and New Year period.

Our strong preference is that childhood immunisations continue on the non-statutory holiday days.

### **Maintain a focus on childhood and other national immunisation schedule services.**

Measles continues to be an ongoing threat. Please continue to prioritise time now to actively recall those who are due and overdue for MMR doses 1 and 2 in the following order:

1. Pre-call and recall for 12- & 15-month events
2. Overdue 13 to 24 months, then
3. 24 months to 5 years, then
4. Those born from 2005
5. Those born from 1969 to 2004

Consider people who received their childhood vaccines overseas. Some countries offer the first measles vaccine to children under 12 months of age, and these people should be recommended to have 2 additional doses to be fully protected. These countries include, but are not limited to; Philippines, India, China and South Africa.

Re-engage with whānau who have previously declined MMR. Offer opportunity to ask questions now that measles cases are occurring in communities across the country. Prioritise as above – starting from youngest to oldest.

Advise whānau that immunisation is the best protection against measles and they can reconsider previous decisions to decline/ delay – now is the time to protect their whānau.

Some consumers may have had serology completed as part of a workplace preparedness programme or may have had serology as part of contact tracing work. If measles immune results come through to providers, these can be added to the PMS or AIR via an AIR Admin account to ensure they are recorded as immune and be removed from future recalls.

Consumers can be referred to the newly updated measles immunity page to help understand if they are protected against measles.

[Measles immunity – Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora](#)

### **MMR dose Zero**

At this stage of the outbreak NPHS is not recommending all babies under 12 months of age receive this early dose. The exceptions are if an infant is a close contact of a measles case or if they are travelling internationally.

This recommendation is based on assessment of current risk of measles to the public and our understanding of how effective this early dose is for babies under 12 months old.

The MMR0 dose requires a prescription and written informed consent is recommended.

### **MMR Eligibility**

We are simplifying claiming for MMR vaccinations for people usually ineligible for funded healthcare. When directed by public health officials, providers can use existing funded MMR codes in PMS and PhMS systems, with access limited to ICPSA and PHO Services Agreement contract holders. For system-specific guidance, contact your PMS vendor.

### **Vaccine Helpline (consumer facing) holiday hours**

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Providers can refer consumers to 0800 28 29 26 for support to access vaccine records that are on AIR and are therefore available on My Health Record as well as support to book vaccines in periods where vaccines will not be offered due to public holidays.

#### **The Vaccine Helpline support service holiday hours:**

- 22-24 Dec: 8:30am to 7pm
- 27 Dec: 8:30am-2:00pm Saturday
- 29-31 Dec: 8.30am to 7pm
- 3 Jan 2026: 8.30am to 2.00pm

#### **IMAC clinical support service holiday hours:**

- 22-23 Dec: 8.30am – 4.30pm
- 24 Dec: 8.30am – 3pm
- 29-31 Dec: 9am – 3pm

No service on 25-26 Dec 2025 and 1-2 Jan 2026. Normal service resumes Monday 5 Jan 2026.

#### **Measles vaccine stock holiday ordering and urgent requests**

When ordering to cover this period, please consider your designated delivery day, opening

hours, upcoming patient needs and fridge capacity.

#### **HNZ Inventory portal deliveries**

The last delivery day prior to Christmas will be 23 December 2025

The first delivery day back in the new year will be 7 January 2026

Order queries:

[Vaccinelogistics@tewhatuora.govt.nz](mailto:Vaccinelogistics@tewhatuora.govt.nz)

System access queries:

[help@imms.min.health.nz](mailto:help@imms.min.health.nz)

#### **Propharma deliveries**

The ProPharma branches will be closed during the stat days but will otherwise be open over the holiday period.

ProPharma 0508 482 224,  
[vaccines@propharma.co.nz](mailto:vaccines@propharma.co.nz)

**Urgent Priorix orders** may be available via ProPharma and Health NZ should they be needed. Use the above contact details.