28 November 2016

Public Health alert issued for measles

Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service is advising residents to be on the lookout for symptoms of measles after a woman was diagnosed with the virus.

Public Health Physician Dr Margaret Young said an adult female returning from overseas visited several locations in the community while she was unknowingly infectious.

A measles alert has been issued for people visiting the following areas:

- Flight details: Cathay Pacific: 21 Nov CX694 Delhi 0125 to Hong Kong 0910 and Cathay Pacific: 21 Nov CS157 Hong Kong 1235 to Brisbane 2320
- 24 November between 2.30 and 6pm – Maroochydore Sunshine Plaza, Cotton Tree at MoJo’s Café then down to the nearby beach, Aldi Maroochydore
- Eckersley Medical Centre: on 23 November (11.10am) and 25 November (3.50pm).

GPs and hospitals have been notified of the possibility of measles cases presenting.

Dr Young said information had been sent to the venues.

“It is important to make clear that these businesses have not been responsible for causing any risk to public health,” Dr Young said.

“We appreciate the cooperation we have received from management of these establishments in helping get the message out.

“Individuals born before 1966 and people who have had two doses of a measles containing vaccine (MMR vaccine) generally have good levels of long term protection against measles.

People who are susceptible to measles include those who are not fully vaccinated and those too young to be vaccinated (less than 12 months of age).”

Measles is a highly infectious and serious viral infection that causes high fever, cough, runny nose, sore eyes, then a red spotty rash a few days later. It is often a severe disease and occasionally measles has dangerous complications.

It is spread by tiny droplets in the air or by contact with infected secretions from the nose or mouth.

“If you are sick with high fever and other features of measles, phone ahead to inform the practice that you may have measles, so that processes are in place to protect other patients from exposure,” Dr Young said.
Measles is now rare in Queensland, mostly occurring in unvaccinated travellers who acquire infection in measles-endemic countries, and unvaccinated contacts. There have been eight cases of confirmed measles in the year to date in Queensland, and there were 21 cases in the whole of 2015.

It is recommended anyone born during or since 1966, who has not had two documented doses of measles, mumps, rubella (MMR) vaccine or had proven measles, should visit their local GP to get vaccinated for measles. The vaccine is free for anyone who requires it.


For more information contact your G.P. or phone 13 HEALTH (13 43 25 84).

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