

# Measles alert

Queensland Health



If on presentation for measles pathology collection patient has:  
rash + fever + cough + runny nose  
+/**or** red inflamed eyes

**Patient may be infectious**

- Place patient in separate room (door closed) immediately

## Act

Implement airborne precautions including surgical mask for patient if possible.

Ensure attending staff are:

- aware
- vaccinated/immune
- using appropriate PPE.



If aware that patient will be presenting for measles pathology collection arrange to be last for the day or do home visit.

**Note:** Do not use isolation room for 30 minutes after the patient has vacated.

# Measles ... the facts

Queensland Health



- Measles remains one of the leading causes of death among young children globally.
- Despite the availability of a safe and effective vaccine, an estimated 110,000 people worldwide died from measles in 2017, mostly children.
- No longer considered endemic in Australia but outbreaks continue to occur.
- Cases imported from other countries remain an important source of infection.

Measles is a serious viral illness that can result in:

- pneumonia
- encephalitis
- middle ear infections
- subacute sclerosing panencephalitis (SSPE)

**Transmission** Airborne (respiratory spread)  
Must be managed with transmission based precautions (airborne) as per Australian Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infection in Healthcare (2010)  
[https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/about-us/publications/australian-guidelines-prevention-and-control-infection-healthcare-2010#toc\\_\\_2985](https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/about-us/publications/australian-guidelines-prevention-and-control-infection-healthcare-2010#toc__2985)

**Prevention** The best protection is vaccination. Two doses of measles vaccine are required at least one month apart.

**Notifiable** Measles must be **immediately** notified to Public Health Units on clinical suspicion (*Public Health Act 2005* and Public Health Regulation) 2018

## Queensland Public Health Units

Brisbane North	3624 1111	Hervey Bay	4184 1800	Toowoomba	4699 8240
Brisbane South	3156 4000	Mackay	4885 5800	Townsville	4433 6900
Bundaberg	4303 7500	Mount Isa	4744 7186	West Moreton	3818 4700
Cairns	4226 5555	Rockhampton	4920 6989		
Gold Coast	5667 3200	Sunshine Coast	1300 017 190		



Queensland  
Government