

Wednesday 1 January 2020

Measles alert after Inner-West Sydney diagnosis

Sydney Local Health District (SLHD) is advising people to be alert for symptoms of measles after a local man diagnosed with the infection visited a number of locations in Sydney's Inner West, North West and Eastern Suburbs while infectious.

The man in his 20s had not travelled immediately prior to his illness and has no known links to previously identified measles cases.

Sydney Local Health District's Clinical Director of Public Health, Dr Leena Gupta, said "this should be a reminder for everyone to check that they are protected against measles, which is extremely infectious."

"The measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine is safe and highly effective, with two doses providing lifelong protection in 99 out of 100 people who are vaccinated.

"Anyone born during or after 1966 needs to ensure that they have received two measles shots. If you're unsure whether you've been vaccinated against measles in the past, it's safe to have a dose."

The man is believed to have been infectious from 27 December 2019. He has visited many locations and travelled on buses and trains in the Sydney CBD, Inner West, North West and Eastern Suburbs while infectious:

- **Friday 27 December** he travelled on a 12:30pm bus from Wollongong to Central Station, then took a bus from Central to St Peters.
- **Saturday 28 December** he travelled by train from Sydenham to Bondi Junction around 10:00am to 11:00am. He then took a bus from Bondi Junction to Bondi Beach, arriving around 12:00pm. After spending the day at Bondi Beach he then returned home on the same route around 5:00pm.
- **Sunday 29 December** he travelled by train from Sydenham Station to Central Station at 11:00am and then took a train from Central Station to Berowra Station at 12:15pm. He returned on a train from Berowra Station to Central Station at 3:00pm, then another train from Central Station to Sydenham Station.
- **Monday 30 December** he went to Marrickville Metro between 3:00pm and 4:00pm.
- **Tuesday 31 December** he went to Marrickville Metro and a GP in Marrickville from around 10:30am to 1:30pm.

Sydney Local Health District's Public Health Unit is identifying people who may have been in contact with the man and arranging preventive treatment if required.

"It is possible that other people have been exposed to this case so everyone needs to be on the lookout for the early signs of measles," Dr Gupta said.

"Symptoms to watch out for include fever, sore eyes and a cough followed three or four days later by a red, blotchy rash that spreads from the head to the rest of the body.

Anyone who develops symptoms should arrange to see their GP and call ahead to ensure they don't wait alongside other patients."

Measles is a vaccine preventable disease that is spread through the air when someone who is infectious coughs or sneezes.

NSW Health makes the measles vaccine available free for anyone born during or after 1966 who doesn't have two documented doses of measles vaccine.

For more information visit: health.nsw.gov.au/measles

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