CLINICIAN ALERT - MEASLES

- **A person has been infectious with measles in Sydney, Eastgardens, Botany, Alexandria and Darling Square between 14 – 20 February 2025**
- **Infants too young to be vaccinated and incompletely vaccinated people may present with measles from now until 9 March**
- **Isolate and test people with measles symptoms exposed at these locations or recently returned from overseas**

What is the issue?

- There is a resurgence of measles in many regions of the world, particularly in Vietnam
- Infants too young to be vaccinated, and under-vaccinated adults are returning to Australia having acquired measles while overseas.
- A person recently returned from Vietnam was diagnosed with measles on 21 February but had been infectious in the community during the previous week.

How does measles present?

- Symptoms develop 7 – 21 days after exposure
- There is usually a prodrome of several days of fever, cough, coryza and/or conjunctivitis.
- A maculopapular rash then develops, usually starting on the head and progressing to the trunk and limbs. Fever is invariably present when the rash emerges.

What should you do?

- Ask patients presenting with fever or rash about recent overseas travel or visits to exposure sites
- Patients with suspected measles should wear a mask and be isolated in a single room
- During the prodrome and up to 4 days after rash onset collect throat swab, urine and blood (EDTA) for PCR.
- Serology may be useful after day 4 of rash, or earlier if immune status is unknown
- Please call the PHU on 1300 066 055 if measles is suspected so that testing can be expedited
- Advise patient to isolate until test results are known

Who is at risk?

- During the early months of life most infants have passive maternal-derived immunity
- From around 4 months until the first dose of measles vaccine most infants are at risk of measles if exposed
- Adults who were born overseas, and Australian adults 30 – 60 years of age, are at risk of being incompletely vaccinated.
- Patients with severe immunocompromise are also likely susceptible