

## Lunch and Learn: Measles awareness and prevention in 2025

Monday 26 May 2025, 12:30pm – 1:30pm

Presented by Dr Vicky Sheppard

[Contact the PHU](#)

Contact CESPHN – [immunisation@cesphn.com.au](mailto:immunisation@cesphn.com.au)

### Resources mentioned in webinar

- [Australian Immunisation Handbook](#)
  - [Measles](#) - In NSW [MMR vaccine is provided at no cost](#) for anyone who meets the recommended criteria for receiving MMR vaccine.
  - [Vaccination for people who are immunocompromised](#)
- [Measles history](#) – A timeline of significant events in MMR vaccination practice in Australia
- [Measles resources](#) – posters and fact sheets developed by NSW Health
  - [Measles poster - travelling overseas?](#)
- [Measles catch-up guide for Australian immunisation providers](#)
- HealthPathways:
  - Sydney [Measles page](#)
  - South Eastern Sydney [Measles page](#)

### General immunisation resources

- [MMR Quality Improvement](#) activity for 0–20-year-olds – use the AIR010A or AIR011A Due/overdue report to identify patients without 2 documented doses
- [Immunisation NIP resources](#) CESPHN
- [Immunisation News & Alerts webpage](#) CESPHN
- [NSW Immunisation Schedule poster](#) September 2024
- [NSW Childhood Immunisation Schedule poster](#) with pictures February 2025
- [National Immunisation Program webpage](#) Department of Health and Aged Care

### Webinar Q&A

**Q:** I have a patient in her early 20s who has had 2 doses as a child in Australia, but the serology came back with serology not detected. She is a student nurse going to rural Philippines for volunteer work. Do people with no serology detected but have 2 doses have another booster?

**A:** Serology is not routinely recommended, however where a patient's serology for measles IgG is negative or equivocal, offer MMR vaccination.

- Give 2 doses of MMR vaccine 4 weeks apart if patient has 0 documented doses on AIR.
- Give 1 dose of MMR vaccine if patient has 1 documented dose on AIR.
- Source: [Measles vaccination catch-up guide for Australian immunisation providers](#)

**Q:** A patient had 1 dose as a child and was born between 1966 to 1994. Do they still need another dose if they have positive serology to measles?

**A:** If a patient has 1 documented dose of MMR vaccine on AIR - it is recommended that they receive a 2nd dose without a need to do serology. However, as serology has been performed and the result shows that patient is measles IgG positive, no MMR vaccine is required regarding measles, however given patient has only received 1 dose of MMR, also need to consider mumps and rubella IgG.

- Source: [Measles vaccination catch-up guide for Australian immunisation providers](#)

**Q:** Can anyone born after 1966 be eligible for two doses free MMR vaccine (regardless of Medicare eligibility)?

**A:** Yes, you can order NSW State funded MMR vaccine from the Vaccine Centre, which is available free to all eligible patients (regardless of Medicare) born after 1966 who don't have 2 documented MMR doses on AIR.

- Source: [Additional Commonwealth and NSW-funded free vaccines](#)
- [State Vaccine Centre](#) > Place Order > Place routine vaccine order > select "MMR (NSW)"

**Q:** Regarding Measles diagnosis, does it have to be throat swab, or can it be nasopharyngeal swab?

**A:** Nasopharyngeal swab is acceptable, especially for infants.

**Q:** How common do we see subacute sclerosing panencephalitis (SSPE)? Are there risk factors for this? How does it present?

**A:** Very rare and slowly progressive – presents on average 7 years post-infection. Invariably fatal. Slowly degenerative dementing type presentation – behavioural changes, cognitive decline, myoclonic jerks, seizures and vision abnormalities. Very unlikely to see in Australia due to low case numbers of measles infection.

**Q:** How do I upload a vaccine encounter to AIR for patients without Medicare if they also don't have an individual health identifier (IHI)?

**A:** You do not need a Medicare card to create a record in AIR. An IHI is helpful but also not necessary – AIR can create an account based only on personal details.