

# MEMBER/GUEST BRIEF



Tuesday 13 December 2016

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## NSW Health Alert - Measles

### What happened?

A local resident attended the Club on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2016 for lunch. In the following days they fell ill and were eventually diagnosed with measles.

### Who is at risk?

Children or adults who attended the club on Sunday between 10.30am & 4.30pm who were born during or after 1966 and have not received 2 doses of MMR vaccine (Measles Mumps Rubella). Our elderly members/guests are not likely to be at risk given they would more than likely have had the measles during childhood. Our younger members/guests who may not have been fully vaccinated are likely at more risk.

**You cannot get measles more than once. After you've had the virus, you are immune for life.**

### How measles spread and what are the symptoms?

Measles is spread through coughing and sneezing. Symptoms can include fever, tiredness, runny nose, cough and sore red eyes which usually last for several days before a red blotchy rash appears. Complications range from an ear infection and diarrhoea, through to pneumonia and swelling of the brain (encephalitis).

### I attended the Club the day before/day after or plan to attend soon. Am I at risk?

NO. This alert only applies to the date and time in question (10am – 4.30pm Sunday 4 December 16) and for those not fully immunised.

### For what time period is the alert valid for?

The time from exposure to the onset of symptoms is typically 8 to 18 days. People are infectious for 24 hours before symptoms appear and for the 4-5 days before the onset of rash and remain infectious until 4-5 days after appearance of the rash. Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2016 is 18 days after the person attended the Club. Vulnerable people may develop symptoms earlier.

### What do I do if I think I have contracted the measles?

Anyone with symptoms of measles should phone their General Practitioner in advance before arriving for assessment to ensure they can be isolated from other patients.

**How do you prevent measles/Vaccination questions?**

Vaccination with measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine is the only way to prevent infection. Two doses of the MMR vaccine are recommended for children, with the first at 12 months and the second at 18 months of age. People born during or since 1966 who do not have two documented doses of MMR vaccine should contact their local health provider for vaccination advice. **People born before 1966 are usually immune because they had measles during childhood.** The MMR vaccine is free to people born during or after 1966.

**Does/Is the Club need(ing) to do anything in the future?**

No, this was simply a case of a person not knowing they were sick/contagious choosing our Club as their social venue on the day in question. It has nothing to do with our general cleaning or hygiene procedures whatsoever. You could easily 'swap' our club for a shopping centre, another club/pub, movie theatre, school, day care, aged care venue. In other words, venues where the public congregate can often be the unwitting location of such events.

**What is the Club doing to contact people who did visit on that day?**

We are endeavouring to contact all members at risk who attended in the time period/day (who swiped the member rewards kiosk as it logs their details) Social media will also be used by STS. NSW Health has issued a public news release (and you are welcome to a copy).

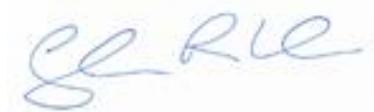
**What do I do if I hear people in the Club talking about this and inadvertently spreading false messages?**

Please let our staff know so we can politely and promptly speak to the person(s) in question and put their mind at ease with the correct information and copies of our member/guest brief and NSW Health alert.

**Has the Club had contact from NSW Health?**

Yes they contacted us about the media release and they also read over our notices to staff and members/guests and were very satisfied with our response.

Thank you for your assistance.



Gordon Rhodes  
Chief Executive Officer