



MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES

MEASLES ADVISORY 7

The Ministry of Health and Medical Services declared an outbreak of measles in Fiji on Thursday 7 November 2019. There are currently 16 confirmed cases of measles in Fiji - 11 from the Serua/Namosi Subdivision (Wailali, Wainadoi, Navunikabi, and Makosoi Deuba) and 3 from Suva (Samabula, Vatuwaqa and Tacirua) and 2 from Rewa (Koronivia, Nasilai Village Nakelo) subdivisions.

The second phase of the mass immunization campaign for measles began on Wednesday 4 December.

Across Fiji it is targeting people in the groups listed below:

- 1) Any child in Fiji who has not received 2 doses of a measles vaccine as per the national immunisation schedule
- 2) Any child in Fiji aged 12 and 18 months who is due their routine measles vaccine as per the national immunisation schedule
- 3) Any person in Fiji travelling overseas, however evidence of travel must be provided i.e. travel itinerary or ticket
- 4) All health care workers in Fiji
- 5) All airport and hotel staff

In **Central Division** only, the campaign is also targeting:

- 1) All children aged 6 months to 5 years
- 2) All people born between 1980 and 2000 (19 to 39 year olds).
- 3) All residents of Serua/Namosi aged 6 months and older.

Immunisation for target groups will be available at all Ministry of Health and Medical Services health centres. The Ministry of Health and Medical Services teams in the Central Division will also go house to house to immunise people in the target groups.

Immunisation outreach posts will also be set up in Central Division at the following locations for members of the public who are in the target groups to access from **9am to 6pm Monday to Friday. Please note these timings have changed. There is also a new outreach post at Albert Park and the Flagstaff post has moved to the Marist Brothers High School. These decisions were made based on experience from the first two days of operation and advice from people on the ground, including Police:**

Area	Immunisation outreach post (9am-6pm Monday to Friday)
Nausori	Nausori old market and Nausori Health Centre
Valelevu	Valelevu grounds, Valelevu Health Centre
Raiwaqa	Raiwaqa Health Centre grounds (besides Public Rental Board)
Lami	Lami Town
Suva	Nuffield grounds, Dokanai Suva Police Post, Sukuna Park, My Suva Park, Marist Brothers High School, Albert Park
Makoi	Hansons Supermarket, Makoi Health Centre
Samabula	Samabula Health Centre

Pregnant women, those with compromised immune systems, and those with a known allergy to the vaccine should **not** be vaccinated.

Central Division is prioritized for this phase of the campaign as all confirmed cases to date are in this division, and the focus remains on containing the current outbreak. The other divisions will be targeted once more vaccine supplies, which are currently on order, are received. **The Ministry of Health and Medical Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance provided by the UNICEF and the Australian and New Zealand Governments in securing vaccines for Fiji.**

Measles is very contagious. To help stop the spread of the disease, the Ministry of Health and Medical Services also advises Fijians to take the following precautions:

- **Avoid non-essential travel to Serua/Namosi.** Non-essential travel includes all visits and gatherings. If you need to travel to Serua/Namosi, please get vaccinated against measles at least two weeks before travel. Please avoid taking those that cannot get vaccinated (e.g. babies under the age of 6 months and pregnant women) to the outbreak area of Serua/Namosi.
- **Avoid holding or attending large gatherings of people,** especially in Central Division, but also those that bring participants from across the country or overseas (such as youth camps, religious gatherings, graduation ceremonies, sporting events, etc). Measles can spread very easily among large groups of people if they are not immune, who can then take the disease back into their communities.
- **If you are holding an event or gathering with international visitors, or participants from an outbreak area, please strongly encourage them to get vaccinated against measles at least two (2) weeks before travel.** This especially applies to visitors traveling from other countries with measles outbreaks i.e. New Zealand, Samoa and Tonga.

Please be aware of the symptoms of measles:

Fever and a rash with any of the following: runny nose, sneezing, cough, red/watery eyes, white spots inside the mouth. The rash starts after the other symptoms and spreads all over the body.

If you develop the symptoms listed above please call one of the following numbers. These numbers are only to be used for people who think they, or a family member has the measles. If you need to see a doctor please call the facility before you arrive so they can ensure you do not infect other patients.

Central 2219905
Eastern 2219906
Western 2219907
Northern 2219908

The Ministry of Health and Medical Services urges the public to take heed of our advice to protect yourselves and your families from measles.