

Auckland measles update | 26 July 2019

A summary of measles cases in the Auckland region

We would like to thank everyone in the Auckland health sector who is working so hard during this outbreak.

Many people in DHB services, laboratories and primary care are helping immensely, with extra test runs, managing waiting room contacts, timely notifications, full case information and public messaging.

Thanks also to our other stakeholders, particularly those in education for their support and communications to Auckland schools and early learning services.

- The number of confirmed measles cases is now **262**.
- There is now a rapid increase in the number of cases being confirmed; an average of 6 a day, up from 2 to 3 a day last month.
- South Auckland continues to be hardest hit, with 150 cases.
- ARPHS has supported more than 50 early learning services and schools with measles.
- Next week we will be sending out a Measles Whānau Pack for schools and early learning services with guides and letters for parents and staff.
- See our [map of where cases have been](#) in the region.

The single point of contact for stakeholders is Dion Anderson – diona@adhb.govt.nz, mobile 021 531 956.

Summary

What are the source of cases and the nature of the epidemic curve?

The total number of confirmed or probable cases is now **262**, with 35 confirmed cases reported in the last week ending 26 July, 2019 (**figure 1**). The first case occurred on 22 February 2019, so the duration of the outbreak is now 23 weeks (6 months). The majority of cases are now coming from South Auckland, especially the neighbourhoods of Māngere, Manurewa and Papakura.

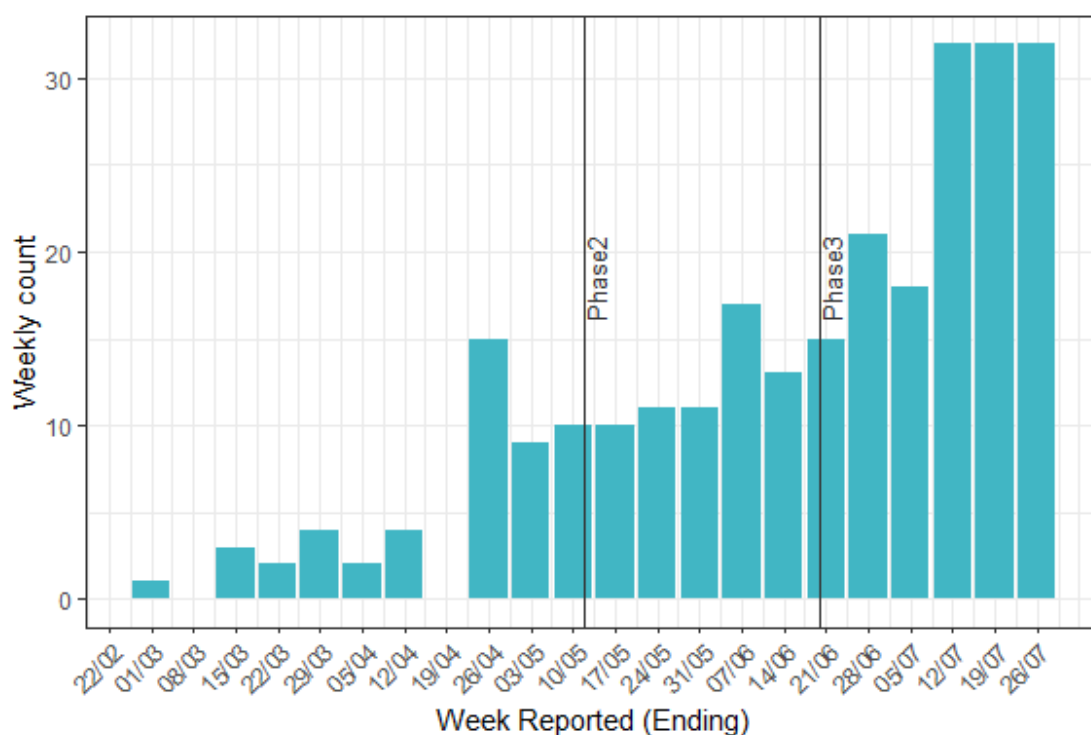


Figure 1. Epicurve.

In terms of total-response ethnicity (more than one response possible per individual), 112 cases identify as Pacific, 80 as European, 67 as Māori, 9 as Asian and two as 'Middle Eastern, Latin American or African' (MELAA). It is clear that Pacific people are disproportionately affected by the epidemic.

Of the cases, 150 are in the Counties Manukau District Health Board area, 76 in Waitematā and 36 in Auckland (**figure 2**). A further 27 notified cases are currently under investigation, but are not yet confirmed.



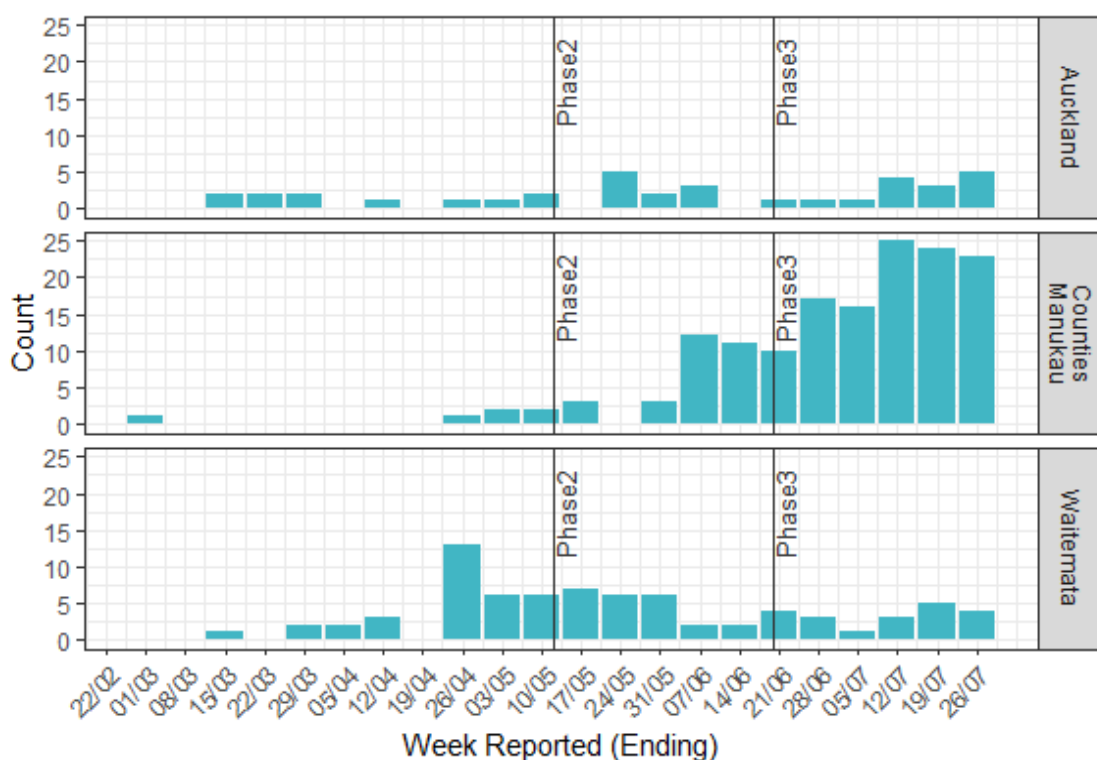


Figure 2. Epicurve, by DHB.

Can vaccine efficacy be estimated?

Fourteen out of 262 (5%) cases have had two documented MMR vaccines. The generally low rate of vaccination among cases, coupled with relatively high rates of vaccine coverage in the community, indicates that the vaccine is very effective at protecting against infection.

Which age groups are at high risk of measles?

The highest risk age group is children and infants aged younger than 4 years (40%; 106/262). The next highest risk age group are those aged 15 to 29 years, making up (35%; 91/262) of confirmed cases.

What are the clinical features of cases and what proportion is being hospitalised?

48% (125/262) of cases have been hospitalised, with no deaths. Almost all cases have presented with rash, with over three quarters presenting with both fever and coryza.