

13th November 2018

St Peter Chanel
425 Heretaunga Street East
Hastings

Kia Ora

Re: Child with Mumps who attended St Peter Chanel Sunday school On 4th November 2018

We are writing to you to let you know there is a small outbreak of mumps in Hawke's Bay with a confirmed case who attended St Peter Chanel Sunday school on Sunday 4 November.

It is very important all parents/caregivers check the immunisation status of their children because mumps can spread quickly among those who are not immune, particularly in school-type settings.

Mumps is a highly infectious viral infection, spread by breathing, sneezing and coughing. Being fully immunised reduces the severity of any potential illness and reduces the risk of further spread.

Please read the following information carefully and follow our health advice.

What is mumps?

Mumps is an infectious disease that can make people unwell with high temperatures (fever), headache, and painful swelling of one or more salivary glands (the glands that produce saliva (spit) located in front of your ear and underneath the jaw). Symptoms usually appear within three weeks of contact with another person with mumps.

How is mumps spread?

Mumps is spread between people through coughing and sneezing and through direct contact with infected saliva (e.g. sharing a cup or touching a dirty tissue). Mumps is easily passed between people from two days before, till five days after the onset of swollen salivary glands. People are often infectious before they realise they have mumps.

Who can get mumps?

People born after 1981 who are not fully immunised with two doses of measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine are vulnerable to catching mumps.

Who is most at risk?

Primary school aged children are at lower risk of complications of mumps than older age groups, and up to one in three infections in this age group can cause no symptoms at all. Unimmunised teenagers and adults, pregnant women and immunocompromised people are most at risk from mumps and are more likely to develop complications.

What we need you to do:

- (1) Check your child's immunisation records to ensure they are fully vaccinated against mumps (i.e. they have had two doses of MMR vaccine). **If your child has not had two documented doses of MMR vaccine, we strongly recommend that you see your Doctor as soon as possible to get immunised. If your child is not been fully immunised and not had mumps infection, we recommend that you do not attend Sunday School until after 30 November.**
- (2) Watch your child for signs of mumps infection and keep them at home at the first sign of illness. As there is a delay in developing symptoms, **it is important to watch your child for signs of mumps infection between the 17th of November and 30th of November.**
- (3) It important they stay at home until five days after the onset of swelling to prevent further spread of infection. If your child develops symptoms of mumps advise public health on: (06) 878 1619 Extension: 4243. If they are unwell enough to need to go to the GP it is important to tell the clinic your child might have mumps when you phone for the appointment.

How to get more information:

An additional health information sheet is provided which describes the symptoms and complications, the people at risk, and how to get in touch.

Immunisation is the best protection against Mumps. Thank you for taking action to reduce the spread of mumps in the community.

Sincerely



Dr Rachel Eyre,
Medical Officer of Health