

Measles weekly report Week 36: 31 August–6 September 2019

This report summarises confirmed measles notifications for the previous surveillance week (Week 36: 31 August–6 September 2019) and cumulative cases for 2019. The case classification used in this report is specified on the last page.

Information is based on data recorded on EpiSurv by public health service staff as at 0830, 9 September 2019. Changes made to EpiSurv data after this time will not be reflected in this report. The results presented may be updated and should be regarded as provisional.

Figures 1 and 2 and Tables 1–4 show data for 2019. Figure 3 shows historical notifications of confirmed cases from 2009 to the end of the previous surveillance month.

Summary

There were 162 confirmed measles cases reported for Week 36/2019, bringing the total to 1111 for the year to date with 373 (33.6%) hospitalisations. There are three ongoing outbreaks.

Figure 1. Number of confirmed measles notifications by week, 1 January–6 September 2019

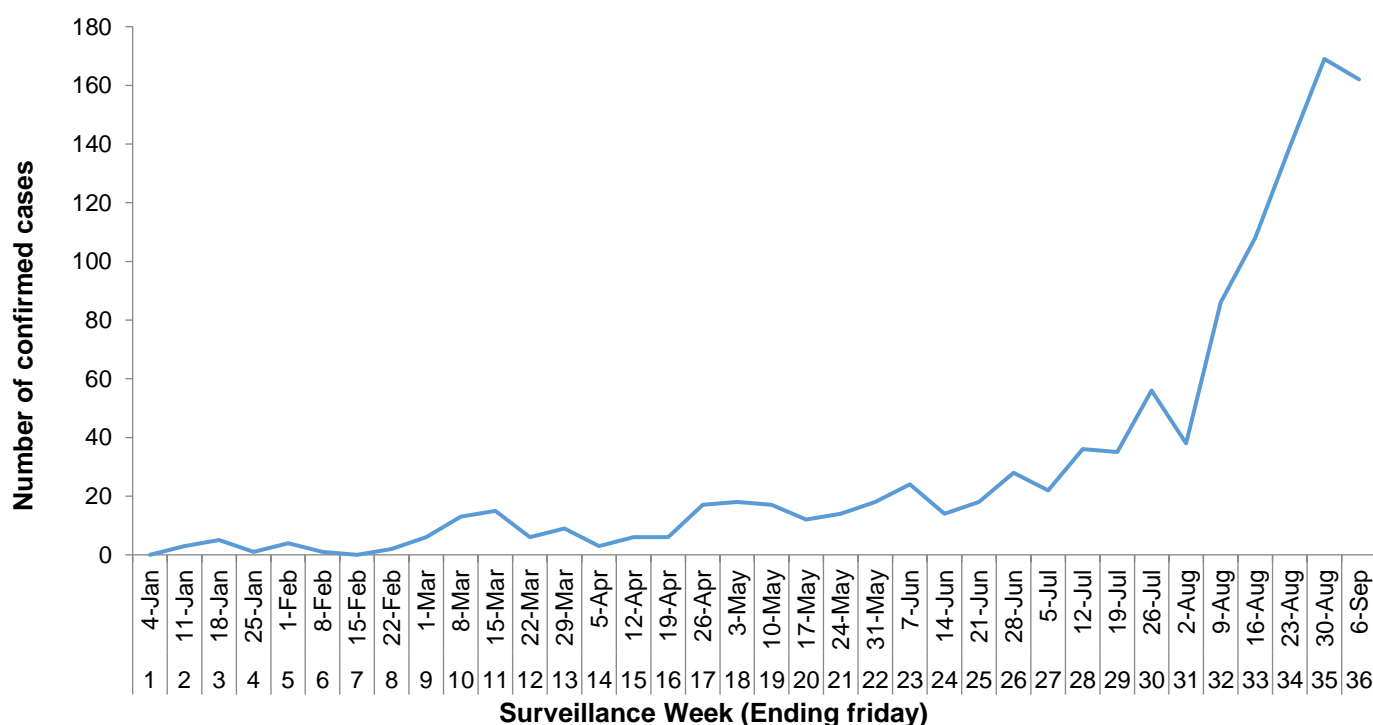


Table1: Number of confirmed measles cases for the last two surveillance weeks and cumulative number of cases for 2019 by district health board

District health board	Surveillance Week 35	Surveillance Week 36	2019 to date		
			Cumulative total	Number hospitalised	Percent hospitalised
Northland	9	3	36	9	25.0
Waitemata	13	12	151	73	48.3
Auckland	28	36	137	47	34.3
Counties Manukau	110	91	636	196	30.8
Waikato	5	2	24	6	25.0
Lakes	2	2	9	2	22.2
Bay of Plenty	1	1	29	15	51.7
Tairāwhiti	0	0	0	0	0.0
Taranaki	1	2	6	1	16.7
Hawke's Bay	0	0	3	1	33.3
Whanganui	0	0	0	0	0.0
MidCentral	0	1	2	0	0.0
Hutt Valley	0	0	7	1	14.3
Capital and Coast	0	0	12	3	25.0
Wairarapa	0	0	1	0	0.0
Nelson Marlborough	0	0	0	0	0.0
West Coast	0	0	0	0	0.0
Canterbury	0	0	41	17	41.5
South Canterbury	0	0	1	1	100.0
Southern	0	12	16	1	6.2
Total	169	162	1111	373	33.6

Figure 2: Number of confirmed cases by week and DHB for the last six months, 2019

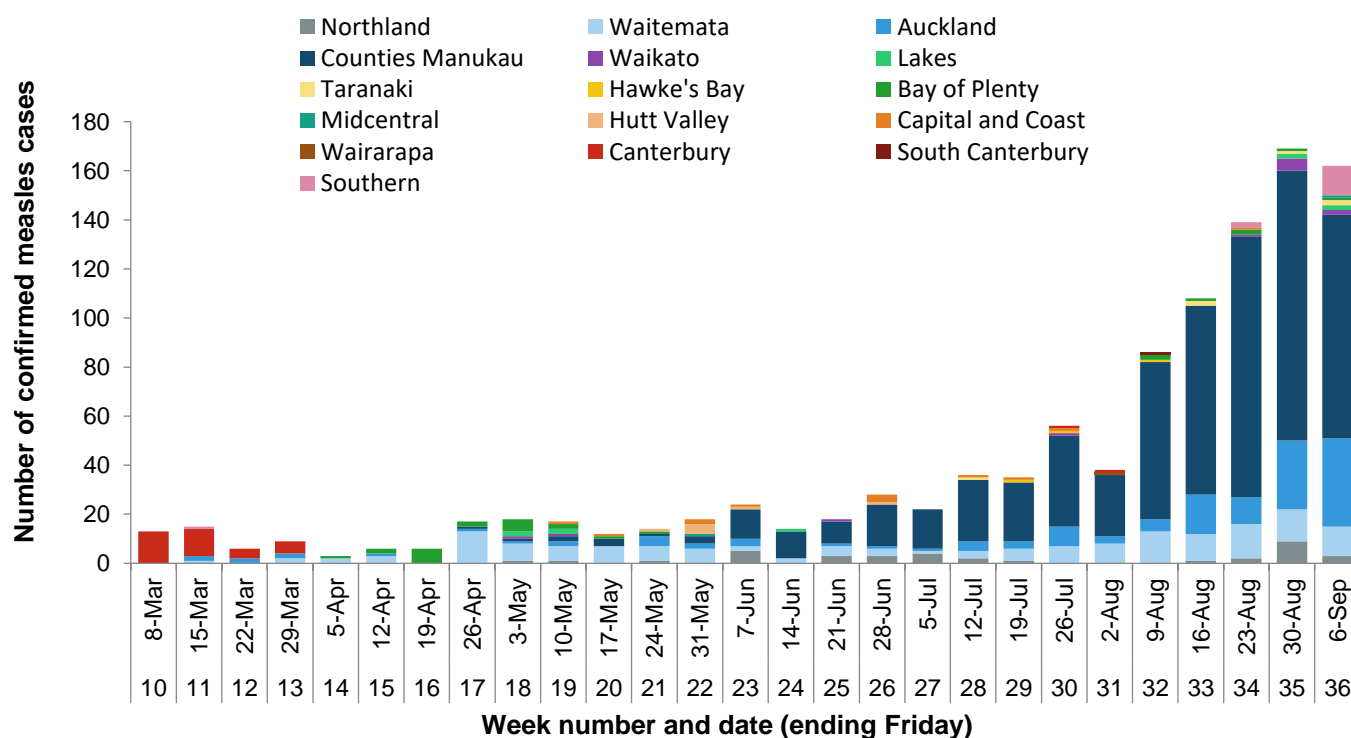


Table 2. Number of confirmed measles cases for Week 36/2019 and cumulative number of cases and hospitalisations for 2019 by age group

Age group	Surveillance Week 36	2019 to date		
		Cumulative total	Number hospitalised	Percent hospitalised
<12 months	18	144	85	59
12 months-2 years	16	148	72	48.6
3-4 years	3	33	9	27.3
5-9 years	3	35	3	8.6
10-19 years	24	219	52	23.7
20-29 years	73	366	106	29
30-49 years	22	148	36	24.3
50+	3	18	10	55.6
Total	162	1111	373	33.6

Table 3. Number of confirmed measles cases for Week 36/2019 and cumulative number of cases and hospitalisations for 2019 by ethnic group

Ethnic group (prioritised)	Surveillance Week 36	2019 to date		
		Cumulative total	Number hospitalised	Percent hospitalised
Māori	30	272	104	38.2
Pacific peoples	65	438	157	35.8
Asian	15	76	18	23.7
MELAA ¹	7	14	2	14.3
European or Other	18	257	78	30.4
Unknown	27	54	14	25.9
Total	162	1111	373	33.6

¹ Middle Eastern/Latin American/African

Table 4. Immunisation status* of confirmed cases of measles, 1 January–6 September 2019

Age group	Not vaccinated ¹	Partially vaccinated ²	Fully vaccinated ³	Unknown	Total number of cases
<12 months	141	0	0	3	144
12 months-2 years	133	0	6	9	148
3-4 years	28	0	4	1	33
5-9 years	23	2	5	5	35
10-19 years	108	8	19	84	219
20-29 years	93	9	28	236	366
30-49 years	24	8	2	114	148
50+	4	1	0	13	18
Total	554	28	64	465	1111

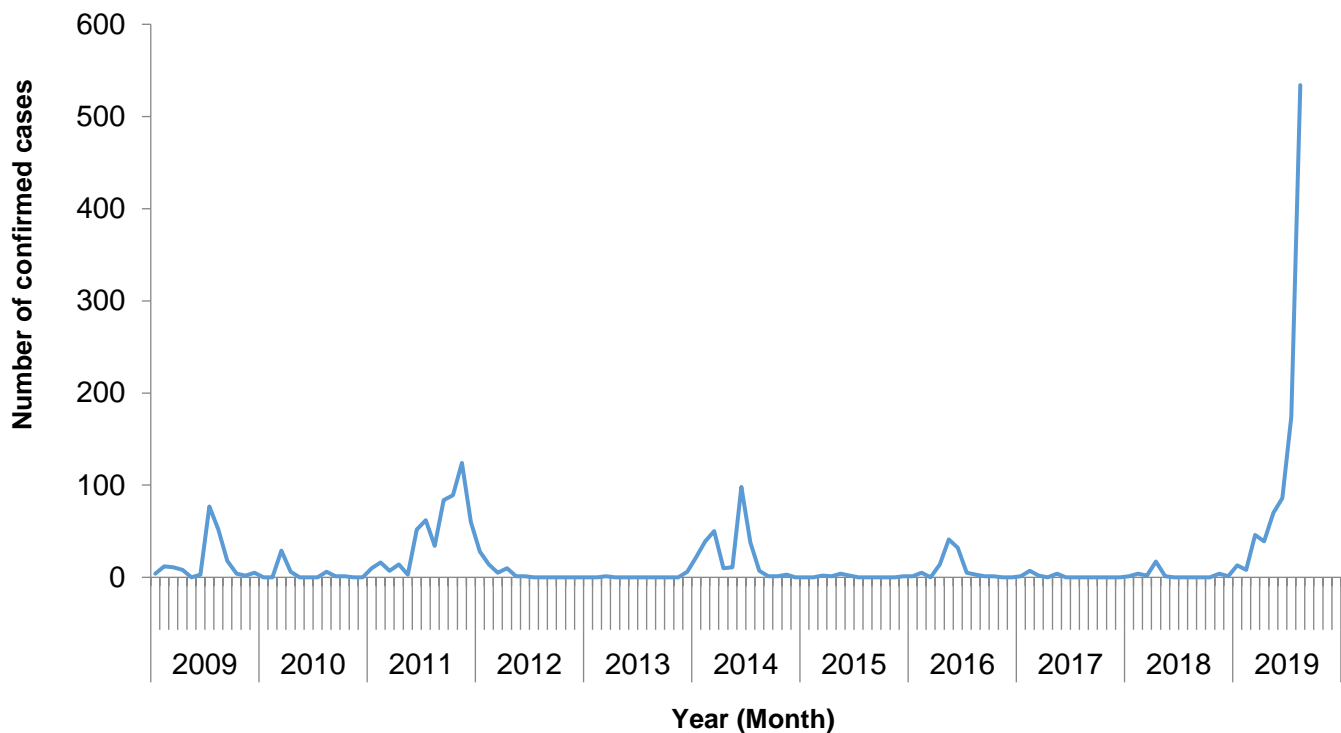
***Note:** Immunisation status in EpiSurv is based on either documentation or patient/caregiver recall.

¹**Not vaccinated:** A person who was reported not to have received any doses of vaccine, or a person who was reported to have received one dose of vaccine within 14 days of the onset of disease. (Includes 25 cases in the <3 years age groups who received one dose of vaccine in the 14 days prior to onset.)

²**Partially vaccinated:** A person aged over 4 years who was reported to have received one dose of vaccine.

³**Fully vaccinated:** A child aged between 12 months and 4 years who was reported to have received one dose of vaccine or a person aged over 4 years who was reported to have received two doses of vaccine.

Figure 3. Number of measles notifications by month reported, January 2009 to August 2019



Case classification for measles notification in New Zealand

Confirmed A clinically compatible illness that is laboratory-confirmed or epidemiologically-linked to a confirmed case.

Probable A clinically compatible illness.

Under investigation A case that has been notified, but information is not yet available to classify it as probable or confirmed.

Note: Any notifications that are found to be due to a vaccine strain are considered not to be measles cases and are removed from the analysis.

Clinical description

An illness characterised by **all** of the following:

1. generalised maculopapular rash, starting on the head and neck
2. fever (at least 38°C if measured) present at the time of rash onset
3. cough or coryza or conjunctivitis or Koplik's spots present at the time of rash onset.

Laboratory test for diagnosis

If the case **received a vaccine** containing the measles virus in the 6 weeks prior to symptom onset then **laboratory confirmation requires**:

- evidence of infection with a wild-type virus strain obtained through genetic characterisation.

If the case **did not receive a vaccine** containing the measles virus in the 6 weeks prior to symptom onset, then **laboratory confirmation requires** at least one of the following:

- detection of IgM antibody specific to the virus
- IgG seroconversion or a significant rise (four-fold or greater) in antibody level for the virus between paired sera tested in parallel where the convalescent serum was collected 10 to 14 days after the acute serum
- isolation of measles virus by culture
- detection of measles virus nucleic acid.

See: <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/communicable-disease-control-manual/measles>