



Vaccine Update 457 – Measles update, podcasts, AMA Position Statement

Measles update

The National Communicable Disease Surveillance Dashboard shows that as of September 2025, Australia has recorded 106 measles cases for the year, nearly double the cases reported in 2024.

While Australia's overall vaccination coverage rates are still strong by international standards, measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine coverage has decreased in recent years and fallen below the aspirational 95% coverage target. This led the interim Australian CDC, and the Australian Health Protection Committee to urge health professionals and the community to prioritise measles vaccination.

MMR childhood vaccination coverage for 2 year olds in WA is below 90%. Western Australia has recorded 36 measles cases in 2025, compared to six in 2024. There have been 16 cases of measles identified in WA between July and September 2025, of which 5 have been in returned overseas travellers and 11 have been locally acquired. There is currently an active measles alert in the Perth and Pilbara regions.

The National Immunisation Program (NIP) and the Western Australian Department of Health provide measles-containing vaccines for individuals most at risk in Western Australia, including:

- infants aged 6 months to under 12 months, who are travelling overseas to countries experiencing a measles outbreak (after an individual risk assessment undertaken by a

medical professional), or to infants between 6 and 12 months of age if they have recently been exposed to someone with measles while they were infectious

- children at 12 months and 18 months
- individuals born after 1965 who have not already received two doses of MMR vaccine.

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