

# Mumps – Messaging for Parents/Caregivers



To be sent out now (before you have a mumps case in your school):

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Oamaru is experiencing a mumps outbreak. Mumps is a viral illness that spreads easily and cannot be treated by antibiotics.

The best protection against mumps is the MMR vaccine. This is usually given at 15 months and 4 years of age. Some parents and children may not have received the MMR vaccine. MMR vaccine is free for all people in New Zealand, regardless of immigration status.

Please check that you and your child are up to date with this and other vaccinations by contacting your GP. Anyone not enrolled with a GP, contact any GP in Oamaru to find out more.

Please ensure the school has up to date information on your child's vaccination status. Evidence of vaccination is required so the school can keep their immunisation register up to date. Evidence can be your child's WellChild/Tamariki Ora book, or a letter from your GP.

In the event that we have a child with confirmed mumps at our school, we will work with the Public Health Nurses. Children who have been in contact with the person with mumps will have their vaccination status checked. Any child who has not had their MMR vaccinations, or who does not catch up with their MMR vaccinations immediately after exposure, will be asked to stay at home for 2 – 3 weeks.

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