

Mumps – Messaging for Parents/Caregivers



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

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 due to false concerns about its safety ten years ago. The MMR vaccine has since been proven to be very safe.

Please check that your child is up to date with this and other vaccinations by contacting your GP. Vaccination is free for all children in New Zealand, regardless of immigration status. If you, your child or any family members are not enrolled with a GP, contact any GP in Oamaru to find out more.

Please ensure the ECC has up to date information on your child's vaccination status. Evidence of vaccination is required so the ECC 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 ECC, we will work with the Public Health Nurses. Children who have been in contact with the child 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, may be asked to stay at home for 2 – 3 weeks.
