

# GP Urgent Notification

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Date: 26 March 2014

## Measles in returned travellers

Victorians who are travelling to the Philippines and other parts of South East Asia should ensure they, and their children, are fully vaccinated against measles.

This advice is important as a large outbreak of measles is currently occurring in Manila and much of the Philippines; resulting in Australian travellers becoming infected with the disease and infecting others after returning home.

There have been 35 confirmed cases of measles in Victoria this year, 18 of these cases were in returned travellers from Philippines, Bali, Thailand, India, China, Vietnam and Sri Lanka.

General practitioners are asked to be aware of travellers returning from overseas presenting with measles symptoms including fever, red eyes, cough and runny nose that last several days before a red, blotchy rash appears.

Anyone born since 1966, who has never had measles or a measles vaccination, should get at least one dose before travelling to South East Asia and a second at least one month later. The vaccine is available from GPs or travel doctors.

Children are eligible to receive their measles containing vaccine for free as part of the National Immunisation Program schedule. Children receive their first dose of measles containing vaccine at 12 months of age. Those turning 18 months of age from 1 July 2013, have their second measles containing vaccine at 18 months of age. All other children have their second dose at 4 years of age.

Further comments from Victoria's Chief Health Officer Dr Rosemary Lester are available at [www.iemml.org.au](http://www.iemml.org.au)