

Letter to the Editor

Guidelines for the control of measles outbreaks in Australia

Robert Hall

Acting Chair, Measles Elimination Advisory Committee

To the Editor: In response to Dr Christine Selvey's letter to the Editor¹ the Measles Elimination Advisory Committee (MEAC) would like to provide the following comment.

The definition of a susceptible person that was published in the Guidelines for the *Control of Measles Outbreaks in Australia* (2000)² could be interpreted to be inconsistent in the situation proposed by Dr Selvey. Therefore, MEAC agrees that practitioners should consider offering infants under 6 months of age immunoglobulin if:

- the exposure was to a confirmed case of measles, as defined in section 2.1 of the Guidelines; and

- the mother is retrospectively assessed to have been susceptible to measles at the infant's time of birth.

Such a situation is rare at present but might become more common in future.

Guidelines such as *Guidelines for the Control of Measles Outbreaks in Australia* cannot provide recommendations to cover every situation. Therefore, it is important for public health practitioners to consider recommendations in light of the clinical context and to be prepared to exercise a degree of clinical judgement in their implementation (refer to page xvii of the Guidelines).

1. Selvey C. Guidelines for the control of measles outbreaks in Australia (letter). *Commun Dis Intell* 2000;24:299.
2. Measles elimination Advisory Committee. Guidelines for the control of measles outbreaks in Australia. *Commun Dis Intell* Technical Report Series No 5. 2000.