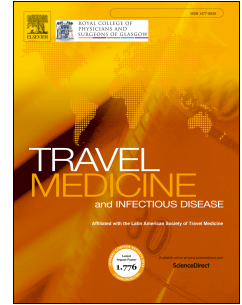


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Measles control in a measles-eliminated country, Japan

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1 Title:

2 Measles control in a measles-eliminated country, Japan

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12

13 TO THE EDITOR:

14 Measles elimination demonstrates the interruption of local chains of transmission, but the  
15 heterogeneity of the immune landscape continues to complicate measles control even in highly  
16 vaccinated countries, with a substantial risk of outbreak given imported cases from neighboring  
17 areas [1]. Including Japan, only eight out of thirty-three member state countries of the World  
18 Health Organization Western Pacific Region (WPR) has been verified of the measles elimination  
19 [2-3]. Even after elimination in Japan, outbreaks following importation has been frequently  
20 observed.

21 In 2016, a foreign traveler infected with measles arrived at Kansai International Airport  
22 (KIX), Osaka, producing a total of 33 cases, including 26 cases of modified measles [4]. In 2017,  
23 a large cluster of cases was identified at a driving school in Yamagata, involving a total of 60  
24 cases (including 38 modified measles) [5]. As of 8<sup>th</sup> August 2018, 201 cases have already been

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