

Hūrae/July 2020

Public Health Bulletin

Nau mai, haere mai Riki Nia Nia

Riki Nia Nia (Ngāti Kahungunu and Tūhoe) is the new Executive Director for Māori, Equity and Health Improvement and will lead a team that includes Public Health, Te Puna Oranga, and Pacific Health. Riki was welcomed to the Waiora CBD building and public health teams on 13 July with a Pacific themed welcome to acknowledge his Tongan heritage. We are all looking forward to working with Riki and any changes he will bring.

COVID-19 Updates

Managed Isolation Facilities in the Waikato

The Public Health Unit has been playing a key role in supporting the Managed Isolation Facilities that have been operating in Hamilton since June. The three facilities currently operational are the Distinction Hotel, Ibis Hamilton, and Jet Park Hamilton Hotel.

COVID-19 Testing

The Ministry of Health has recently updated their 'Case definition and testing guidance for COVID-19' available on their [website](#). The highest priority for testing are those who have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 and meet the higher index of suspicion (HIS) criteria or are a healthcare worker, aged care worker, Māori, Pacific, are 70 years and over, and/or have significant co-morbidities. Anyone else presenting with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 should be offered a test. Please continue to notify the PHU using the BPAC notification forms for those meeting both the clinical and HIS criteria. You will have heard that oropharyngeal (OP) swabs are now an acceptable alternative to nasopharyngeal (NP) swabs. Please note that sensitivity of OP swabs is less than NP, so NP is still the preferred method.

Rheumatic Fever Update

A reminder that District Nurses require an annual Community Medication Authority for Rheumatic Fever patients from their GP for their monthly Bicillin and

Lidocaine. This is the perfect opportunity to review these patients on a regular basis. The District Nurses often report to us that they have been unable to get one from GPs. We would appreciate if you could prioritise this when the request comes through. Please contact the Public Health Unit if you require more information.

Outbreak of Meningococcal Serogroup W in a Community Hospital in the Waikato

Two confirmed cases of Invasive Meningococcal Disease (IMD) caused by *Neisseria meningitidis* Serogroup W PorA type P1.5,2 (MenW) at a rural community hospital have been notified to Waikato PHU. Both cases were long term elderly residents of the GP run hospital who presented atypically to the regional Waikato Hospital eight days apart.

Case A presented with respiratory distress, a productive cough, fever and vomiting. She was treated and made a full recovery. Case B presented with respiratory distress and redness and swelling on the neck. This person rapidly deteriorated upon admission and later died. In both cases MenW was grown from blood cultures, sensitive to Ceftriaxone.

The two cases were resident in the same wing, occupied separate bedrooms but shared a communal space, sitting next to each other for meals. This was the first known outbreak in elderly long term residents of a community hospital.

Following identification of the second case all residents and staff who lived or had worked within the same shared space of the Community Hospital in the two weeks prior to the first case were offered antibiotic prophylaxis and immunisation with Menactra. This was delivered with support from the local General Practice and was positively received by the local community. Information was widely circulated to increase the community vigilance for the early recognition of the signs and symptoms of IMD. MenW is known to present atypically with meningococcal pneumonia, septic arthritis, and conjunctivitis.

Notifiable diseases – June 2020 compared to June 2019 (Waikato DHB)

Disease name	Waikato ¹				YTD		
	2019	2020	Change	2019-2020	Waikato	National	% ²
Campylobacteriosis	28	23	-5	▼	207	1,859	11
COVID-19	0	0	0	-	188	1,534	12
Cryptosporidiosis	7	2	-5	▼	17	191	9
Dengue fever	1	0	-1	▼	3	46	7
Gastroenteritis - unknown cause	0	0	0	-	2	55	4
Gastroenteritis / foodborne intoxication	13	3	-10	▼	20	81	25
Giardiasis	8	9	1	▲	88	633	14
Hepatitis A	0	0	0	-	1	18	6
Hepatitis B	1	0	-1	▼	2	15	13
Hepatitis NOS	0	1	1	▲	2	10	20
Invasive pneumococcal disease	1	5	4	▲	24	129	19
Latent tuberculosis infection	2	2	0	-	4	78	5
Legionellosis	0	0	0	-	5	63	8
Leptospirosis	1	1	0	-	6	26	23
Listeriosis	1	0	-1	▼	2	15	13
Malaria	0	0	0	-	1	10	10
Measles	1	0	-1	▼	0	9	0
Meningococcal disease	1	1	0	-	1	13	8
Mumps	1	0	-1	▼	2	147	1
Murine Typhus	0	0	0	-	1	1	100
Pertussis	7	2	-5	▼	12	146	8
Rheumatic fever - initial attack	1	2	1	▲	13	100	13
Rheumatic fever - recurrent attack	0	0	0	-	1	8	13
Rickettsial disease	0	0	0	-	1	4	25
Salmonellosis	6	3	-3	▼	30	354	8
Shigellosis	0	1	1	▲	7	66	11
Taeniasis	0	0	0	-	1	5	20
Tuberculosis disease - new case	2	5	3	▲	16	143	11
Typhoid fever	1	0	-1	▼	0	23	0
VTEC/STEC infection	4	4	0	-	44	406	11
Yersiniosis	4	9	5	▲	38	466	8
Zika virus	1	0	-1	▼	0	1	0

¹Number of cases. Source Waikato DHB.

²Waikato Year to Date (YTD) count as a proportion of national data.

Medical Officers of Health: Felicity Dumble – Richard Wall – Richard Vipond – Richard Hoskins –
Geoffrey Cramp (COVID-19 support)

After hours:

MOoH: 021 359 650

HPO: 021 999 521

If there is no answer, please contact Waikato Hospital's switchboard 07 839 8899 and ask for the on-call MOoH.

During office hours:

Population Health (MOoH or HPO): (07) 838 2569

Notifications: 07 838 2569 ext. 22065 or 22020

Notifications outside Hamilton: 0800 800 977 **Fax:** 07 838 2382 **Email:** notifiablediseases@waikatodhb.health.nz

Did you enjoy our bulletin? Please share it with your colleagues

Previous Bulletins at: www.waikatodhb.health.nz/for-health-professionals/public-health-bulletins/