

November/Noema 2020

## Public Health Bulletin

### COVID-19 Update

Tēnā koutou/Thank you all for your continued commitment to keeping COVID-19 out of our communities. A few updates follow:

#### Changes to the HIS Criteria

Since the last Public Health Bulletin, the Ministry of Health has broadened the Higher Index of Suspicion (HIS) criteria. Please note the HIS criteria now includes anyone who has exited a Managed Isolation Facility (excluding recovered cases) in the 14 days prior to illness onset.

Those with symptoms who meet the HIS criteria should be notified to the Medical Officer of Health (MOoH) and be advised to self-isolate whilst awaiting test results. The MOoH can be notified by phone or by completing a Best Practice (BPAC) email notification form.

#### Historical infection

As the number of COVID-19 cases globally continues to grow we are seeing increasing numbers of individuals tested who have a history of past COVID-19 like illness or have previously returned a positive test either here in New Zealand or overseas.

Just a reminder to please include this relevant history when completing laboratory testing forms as it supports our interpretation of positive test results and guides clinical management.

#### Face coverings/mask use

The use of face coverings or masks is now mandatory at Alert level 1 for:

- passengers on public transport in, into and out of the Auckland region
- the drivers of small passenger service vehicles in Auckland
- travellers on passenger flights throughout New Zealand

Some individuals are exempt including children under the age of 12 years, children and young people travelling to and from school and those who have a

medical condition that prevents them from wearing a mask or face covering safely or comfortably.

Further information on the use of masks/face coverings and exemptions can be found [here](#)

### Time to Screen – “My body, my health, my future”

A group of vibrant Cook Islands Mama were recently brought together in the hope of using their Breast Cancer journeys, to encourage women to book in for breast screening.

Staff from the Public Health Unit, Health Improvement team in collaboration with BreastScreen Midland and Tokoroa Hospital spent time gathering stories that brought to light the physical, emotional, social, personal and medical experiences of each women. The team are currently exploring options for how we may capture their sharing in a resource that can be used to benefit and support others in the future.

The Mobile Breast Screening Service will be in Tokoroa until 11 December 2020.

## Tokoroa

Mobile breast screening service

9 November to 11 December 2020

South Waikato Health Centre  
Tokoroa Hospital, Gate 3, Maraetai Road



Regular breast screening  
can find what you can't feel

FREEPHONE **0800 270 200**

## World Antimicrobial Awareness Week

Last week was World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW) (Nov 18-24). WAAW aims to raise awareness of antibiotic resistance and the importance of taking action now to ensure we can keep antibiotics working. Aotearoa New Zealand has one of the highest human antimicrobial usage of any developed country with the majority of our children having been exposed to antibiotics by the time they are five. Already Maori and Pacific peoples are disproportionately impacted by antimicrobial resistance with growing concern for other population groups including the very young, the elderly, those who are immunocompromised, people who are hospitalised or critically ill.

Antimicrobial resistant strains are currently monitored by the Antibiotic Reference Laboratory at ESR (Institute for Environmental Science and Research). The data is routinely published [here](#). We can all play a part in managing antimicrobial resistance including being mindful of our prescribing as well as kōrero/talking with our patients and communities about appropriate antibiotic use and other ways we can reduce the spread of infection (hand hygiene, vaccination, safer sex and proper food handling).



## Notification of Hazardous Substances Disease and Injury

A reminder that under the Health Act (1956) injuries and diseases caused by hazardous substances, poisoning suspected as arising from chemical contamination of the environment and lead absorption  $\geq 0.48$  micromol/L must be notified to the Medical Officer of Health.

GPs can use electronic notification systems within MedTech, Profile or My Practice to notify us. Look for 'Hazardous Substances & Lead Notifications' on the module list of the BPAC dashboard.

GP practices without these practice management systems can still notify the Public Health Unit as for other notifiable diseases, by call or fax.

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**Notifiable diseases –  
October 2020 compared to October 2019 (Waikato DHB)**

Disease name	Waikato <sup>1</sup>				YTD		
	2019	2020	Change	2019-2020	Waikato	National	% <sup>2</sup>
Campylobacteriosis	58	61	3	▲	454	3,744	12
COVID-19	0	0	0	-	194	1,972	10
Cryptosporidiosis	16	17	1	▲	105	651	16
Dengue fever	2	0	-2	▼	3	48	6
Gastroenteritis - unknown cause	0	0	0	-	4	113	4
Gastroenteritis / foodborne intoxication	9	2	-7	▼	25	106	24
Giardiasis	13	6	-7	▼	131	969	14
Hepatitis A	0	1	1	▲	2	21	10
Hepatitis B	0	1	1	▲	5	23	22
Hepatitis NOS	0	0	0	-	2	13	15
Invasive pneumococcal disease	4	2	-2	▼	35	274	13
Latent tuberculosis infection	1	0	-1	▼	9	118	8
Lead Poisoning	1	1	0	-	8	80	10
Legionellosis	1	1	0	-	6	115	5
Leptospirosis	1	2	1	▲	14	47	30
Listeriosis	1	0	-1	▼	3	26	12
Malaria	1	0	-1	▼	1	13	8
Measles	13	0	-13	▼	0	9	0
Meningococcal disease	1	1	0	-	4	29	14
Mumps	3	0	-3	▼	2	142	1
Murine Typhus	0	0	0	-	1	2	50
Pertussis	5	0	-5	▼	14	162	9
Rheumatic fever - initial attack	0	0	0	-	18	131	14
Rheumatic fever - recurrent attack	0	0	0	-	1	10	10
Rickettsial disease	0	0	0	-	2	5	40
Salmonellosis	10	8	-2	▼	60	589	10
Shigellosis	0	0	0	-	8	74	11
Taeniasis	0	0	0	-	1	5	20
Tuberculosis disease - new case	4	0	-4	▼	26	266	10
VTEC/STEC infection	10	4	-6	▼	79	711	11
Yersiniosis	9	18	9	▲	89	1,010	9

<sup>1</sup>Number of cases. Source Waikato DHB.

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

**Medical Officers of Health:** Felicity Dumble – Richard Wall – Richard Vipond – Richard Hoskins – Geoff Cramp

**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](mailto:notifiablediseases@waikatodhb.health.nz)

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