

## Waikato Public Health Bulletin

Teena koutou katoa. We hope you enjoy this edition of the Waikato Public Health Bulletin and we welcome your feedback.

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The bulletin is aimed at GPs and colleagues in primary and community care.

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### Niho Ora Ki Hauraki Dental Initiative – Free mobile oral health service for eligible people

Te Tara o Te Whai Hauraki locality in collaboration with Te Whatu Ora and Dental Planet are providing a free mobile oral health service for eligible people.

Niho Ora Ki Hauraki will be traveling across Hauraki throughout 2024 to areas of the highest unmet need including Thames, Manaia, Paeroa, Waihi and Kaiaua. Dental treatment includes xrays, check-up, hygiene clean, fillings and extractions.

For people to be eligible for this initiative, people need to:

- Be aged 19 years or older
- Be eligible for a community services card
- Be living in Hauraki
- Be committed to attending both assessment and treatment appointments

This initiative is in response to whānau and community voice, addressing a need for oral health services to be accessible and delivered closer to people's homes.

Niho Ora Ki Hauraki was successfully delivered in Thames during the month of January seeing over 50 patients receive treatment. Manaia is set to be the next area to receive the service during April.

For more information, please see our website [Te Tara o Te Whai - Hauraki Locality Development](#) or social media [Te Tara o Te Whai | Thames | Facebook](#)



### Measles notifications

- Measles cases in England continue to rise – reaching 733 since 1<sup>st</sup> October 2023. These cases have mainly occurred in areas where levels of MMR vaccine uptake is low.
- New Zealand's last confirmed measles cases were in October 2023, however our risk of spread if a case is imported from overseas is high.
- If you have a suspected case of measles:
  - Urgently notify the **on-call Medical Officer of Health**, including after hours. This needs to be done by a **phone call to 021 359 650**.
  - Complete a BPAC e-referral
- These cases are notified on clinical suspicion, please do not wait for laboratory

confirmation. The hospital laboratory that processes measles swabs typically confirms with the Public Health Service before processing. This means swabs will not be processed unless Public Health is contacted first.

- Suspected cases should isolate whilst testing is occurring.

### **Aotearoa Immunisation Register (AIR): process change for recording serology results for pēpi born to HBsAg-positive persons**

All women should be screened in early pregnancy for hepatitis B carriage. Identifying mothers who are hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) positive is crucial because, without active and passive immunisation, the risk of transmission of the virus to her baby is up to 90%.

If women are found to be HBsAg-positive, [Immunisation Handbook](#) guidance should be followed. For mama, this includes further testing, and discussion with or referral to Infectious Disease teams. For pēpi, this includes:

- receiving the appropriate hepatitis B vaccine and hepatitis B immunoglobulin within 12 hours of birth
- receiving the full primary course of hepatitis B vaccines (6 weeks, 3 months, 5 months)
- serological testing at 9 months of age. This testing is crucial and checks for hepatitis B infection (HBsAg) and for vaccine induced immunity (anti-HBs).

These 9 month serology results can only be received and stored in AIR if they are entered in an integrated practice management system (Medtech, Indici etc.). Please visit <https://www.tewhatauora.govt.nz/our-health-system/digital-health/the-aotearoa-immunisation-register-air/key/> for more information and scroll down to view guidelines on **'Recording HepB serology results in a PMS'**.

More information for health professionals can be found [here](#).

### **World TB Day**



World TB day on 24<sup>th</sup> March commemorates the day in 1882 when Dr Robert Koch discovered the bacteria responsible for tuberculosis: *mycobacterium tuberculosis*. The theme this year is 'Yes! We can end TB!' which aims to send a message of hope that with excellent high level leadership and investment, ending the TB epidemic is possible.

Unfortunately, there is a long way to go on the path to TB eradication:

- Globally, 10.6 million people fell ill with TB in 2022 and 1.3 million people died of this disease
- Most people with TB in New Zealand were born overseas, particularly India and the Philippines. However, TB is also a disease of colonisation, and amongst NZ-born cases nearly half are Maaori.

There are local research studies underway looking to build a pathway towards elimination of TB for Maaori. More information on World TB Day can be found [here](#).

## HPV Awareness Day



Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is causally linked with nearly all cases of cervical cancer, as well as most vulval, vaginal, penile, anal and oropharyngeal cancers. Affecting approximately 4 out of 5 adults worldwide, HPV is responsible for almost a million deaths annually.

The first line of defence against HPV-related cancers is through safe, effective, and readily available HPV immunisation. Vaccines have demonstrated a remarkable 90% effectiveness in shielding against the strains of HPV most commonly linked to such cancers. HPV9 (Gardasil 9) is recommended and fully funded for those aged 9 to under 27. For more details regarding the HPV vaccine please see the [Immunisation Programme](#).

A crucial secondary measure for combating HPV-related cancers is regular cervical screening. Out

of the 180 people who are diagnosed with cervical cancer in Aotearoa each year, 85% have either never undergone screening or have not done so regularly. For more information on screening, visit [Cervical Screening Options](#).

## Staff news

This month we welcome our new Health Protection Advisor, Byron Wipa!



### **Medical Officers of Health (MOoH):**

Dr Felicity Dumble, Dr Richard Wall, Dr Richard Vipond, Dr Elizabeth Becker, Dr Kate Meerkerk

### **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:**

**Public Health (MOoH or HPO):** (07) 838 2569      **Notifications:** 07 838 2569 ext. 22041 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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Notifiable Diseases – Trends

Notifiable diseases (Waikato District) - period to: March 2024

\*Stats NZ estimated 8.69% of the population resided in Waikato in 2021

Disease name	Waikato cases per month			Cases per month over the last year (mean)		
	January	February	Trend	Waikato	National	% Waikato*
Botulism	0	0	-	0.0	0.0	-
Brucellosis	0	0	-	0.0	0.3	0
Campylobacteriosis	74	54	▼	49.8	501.3	10
COVID-19	2,367	1,950	▼	2,530.8	30,966.9	8
Cryptosporidiosis	6	11	▲	10.4	80.9	13
Decompression sickness	0	0	-	0.0	0.1	0
Dengue fever	1	1	-	0.3	5.6	5
Diphtheria	0	0	-	0.0	0.3	0
Gastroenteritis - unknown cause	3	4	▲	2.0	23.8	8
Gastroenteritis / foodborne intoxication	8	5	▼	5.8	16.7	35
Giardiasis	6	15	▲	10.4	75.7	14
Haemophilus influenzae type b	0	0	-	0.1	0.3	33
Hepatitis A	0	1	▲	0.2	3.9	5
Hepatitis B	1	0	▼	0.3	1.5	20
Hepatitis C	0	0	-	0.1	2.9	3
Hepatitis NOS	0	0	-	0.3	0.7	43
Hydatid disease	0	0	-	0.0	0.2	0
Invasive pneumococcal disease	4	1	▼	4.9	63.2	8
Latent tuberculosis infection	0	0	-	1.1	7.3	15
Legionellosis	1	2	▲	1.4	17.4	8
Leprosy	0	0	-	0.0	0.3	0
Leptospirosis	3	5	▲	3.0	14.1	21
Listeriosis	1	0	▼	0.3	2.4	13
Listeriosis - perinatal	0	0	-	0.0	0.3	0
Malaria	0	0	-	0.1	4.6	2
Measles	0	0	-	0.2	1.1	18
Meningococcal disease	1	0	▼	0.5	4.9	10
Mumps	0	1	▲	0.1	1.6	6
Murine Typhus	0	0	-	0.0	0.0	-
Pertussis	0	2	▲	0.9	14.1	6
Q fever	0	0	-	0.0	0.1	0
Rheumatic fever - initial attack	1	0	▼	0.9	15.8	6
Rheumatic fever - recurrent attack	0	0	-	0.2	0.9	22
Salmonellosis	11	10	▼	4.8	68.8	7
Shigellosis	1	0	▼	0.6	12.8	5
Taeniasis	0	0	-	0.0	0.0	-
Tetanus	0	0	-	0.0	0.1	0
Tuberculosis disease - new case	0	3	▲	2.3	26.8	9
Tuberculosis disease - relapse or reactivation	0	0	-	0.0	1.2	0
Tuberculosis infection - on preventive treatment	0	0	-	0.0	0.3	0
Typhoid fever	0	0	-	0.3	5.6	5
VTEC/STEC infection	5	11	▲	6.7	85.5	8
Yersiniosis	6	9	▲	7.9	111.5	7