

March 2009

## PUBLIC HEALTH BULLETIN

### Communicable diseases notified March 2009

Disease name	Mar-08	Mar-09	YTD	Disease name	Mar-08	Mar-09	YTD
Brucellosis	0	0	0	Meningococcal disease	1	0	0
Campylobacteriosis	34	47	175	Mumps	1	0	0
Cryptosporidiosis	1	0	5	Murine Typhus	0	0	0
Cysticercosis	0	0	0	Paratyphoid fever	1	0	0
Dengue fever	0	0	2	Pertussis	4	11	35
Gastroenteritis - unknown cause	6	2	4	Rheumatic fever - initial attack	2	0	5
Giardiasis	10	21	44	Rheumatic fever - recurrent attack	0	0	0
Hazardous substances injury	0	0	0	Salmonellosis	7	12	36
Hepatitis A	1	0	0	Shigellosis	2	0	1
Hepatitis B	0	0	0	Tuberculosis - treatment of latent infection	0	4	4
Hepatitis C	0	0	0	Tuberculosis disease - new case	0	1	7
Invasive pneumococcal disease	0	5	15	Tuberculosis disease - relapse or reactivation	0	0	0
Lead absorption	0	2	6	Typhoid fever	0	0	0
Legionellosis	0	0	1	VTEC/STEC infection	2	3	13
Leptospirosis	0	2	5	Yersiniosis	10	1	9
Listeriosis	1	0	0	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>367</b>

#### Influenza A (H1N1) swine flu

**NB: If you see or speak to anyone that fits the possible case definition below, please phone the medical officer of health at the Public Health Unit (07) 838 2569/021 359 650 to discuss further management of the case and their contacts including swabs required.** If someone does not fit the case definition, please manage (including swabbing) as normal.

This is an alert to notify general practice staff of a **change to the areas of concern** in regards to the case definition. This replaces the fax sent on 29 April 2009.

##### A possible case

A possible case of swine influenza A (H1N1) virus infection is defined as a person with an acute: respiratory illness that has developed symptoms

within seven days of travel to an **area of concern (at 3 May 2009 - this is Mexico or mainland North America)**

OR:

As a person with an acute respiratory illness who is considered to be a close contact of a probable or confirmed case (these are the same as previous and have not changed).

##### Acute respiratory illness

For the purpose of these case definitions, an acute respiratory illness is defined as recent onset of at least two of the following:

- nasal congestion
- sore throat
- cough
- fever or feverish; or

- influenza-like illness – fever 37.8 plus cough or sore throat.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your help over the last week. For further general information please visit [www.moh.govt.nz](http://www.moh.govt.nz) in the first instance.

### A reminder re: Measles

We have recently become aware of several children whose parents thought they were told their children had measles.

Not one of these children was notified or discussed with the medical officer of health, none were diagnosed appropriately (i.e. no blood taken for serology or any viral cultures sent), no relevant exclusion or management was carried out including informing all close contacts and vaccinating them where appropriate.

We need to stress that Measles is not a diagnosis that should be made without relevant tests and discussion with the MOoH. It is a disease where many actions need to be put in place in order to protect others; including communications. Measles is highly contagious and due to levels of immunisation in New Zealand there are significant numbers of vulnerable groups at risk.

Please, if you believe that clinically a child has either: measles, mumps or rubella could you take blood for serology (IgM and IgG) of the relevant disease and appropriate viral culture to confirm the diagnosis, and notify the MOoH. We can help in facilitating appropriate tests and get a timely result (within 24 hours).

At present in New Zealand, there are not thought to be significant circulating levels of Measles, Mumps or Rubella.

### Several cases of Mumps

Population Health has been notified of several cases of Mumps associated with Waihi and surrounding areas in April.

These are being investigated for links and have been given appropriate messages around further prevention and control. This is a reminder that we do get clusters of cases of mumps and to be aware of the signs and symptoms.

Please carry out appropriate testing and inform the MOoH if you think you have a case of Mumps, and use the opportunity to promote appropriate immunisation.

### Growing Up in New Zealand

You may have heard of a new child development research project called Growing Up in New Zealand

that will gather information from a group of 7800 children and their families in the Auckland, Counties-Manukau and Waikato DHB areas.

The research aims to discover what it takes to raise happy, healthy children and consequently improve the lives of all New Zealand children in the future.

Planned to last for 20 years, the research starts before the children are born and continues until they reach adulthood. The research involves an interview with each parent to answer questions about factors that shape a child's development.

These questions cover health, education, family/whanau, culture and identity, neighbourhood and of course, the baby.

Every pregnant woman who lives in the Waikato DHB is invited to join Growing Up, if her baby is due between 25 April and 25 December this year (Anzac Day to Christmas Day 2009). Dads-to-be are also welcome to join Growing Up along with their partners.

The Growing Up in New Zealand project currently has three team members based in the Waikato: Lisa Corkill (lead maternity consultant), Diana Benfell (lead community consultant), and we have recently welcomed Dr Polly Atatoa-Carr as a senior research fellow onto our team.

Please do not hesitate to contact us for further information. Polly is at the Waikato Clinical School on (07) 839 8750 ext 5879 or at [atatoacp@waikatodhb.govt.nz](mailto:atatoacp@waikatodhb.govt.nz)

Your pregnant patients can enrol or enquire about Growing Up by calling our free phone number 0508 476 946, and further information or enrolment is also available online at [www.growingup.co.nz](http://www.growingup.co.nz)

Dell Hood : Anita Bell : Felicity Dumble  
**Medical Officers of Health/Public Health Medicine Specialists**

#### MOoH after hours: 021 359 650

If there is no answer, please contact Waikato Hospital's switchboard and ask for the on-call MOoH. During office hours, please call Population Health (07 838 2569)

#### Email:

bellan@waikatodhb.govt.nz  
 dumblef@waikatodhb.govt.nz  
[hoodd@waikatodhb.govt.nz](mailto:hoodd@waikatodhb.govt.nz)

Fax number (07) 838 2382  
 Notifications (07) 838 2569 ext 2065  
 Notifications from outside Hamilton 0800 800 977  
 (in office hours)

**Health protection officer (after hours) 021 999 521**

After hours help: (07) 839 8899

**This bulletin is published by Waikato District Health Board's Population Health Service.**