

# PUBLIC HEALTH BULLETIN

## Communicable diseases notified December 2009

Disease name	Dec-08	Dec-09	YTD	Disease name	Dec-08	Dec-09	YTD
Campylobacteriosis	87	93	661	Murine Typhus	0	0	1
Chemical poisoning from the environment	0	3	4	Non Seasonal influenza A (H1N1)	0	1	180
Cryptosporidiosis	4	4	109	Paratyphoid fever	0	0	2
Dengue fever	1	0	6	Pertussis	13	28	233
Gastroenteritis / foodborne intoxication	0	0	1	Polioyelitis	0	0	1
Gastroenteritis - unknown cause	2	0	22	Rheumatic fever - initial attack	1	1	18
Giardiasis	14	8	148	Rheumatic fever – recurrent attack	1	1	4
Haemophilus Influenza B	0	0	3	Rickettsial	0	0	1
Hepatitis A	0	0	3	Salmonellosis	9	12	104
Hepatitis B	0	0	1	Shigellosis	1	0	7
Invasive pneumococcal disease	10	5	84	Tetanus	0	0	1
Lead absorption	0	0	23	Tuberculosis - treatment of latent infection	2	0	15
Legionellosis	1	0	1	Tuberculosis disease - new case	2	1	16
Leptospirosis	3	7	16	Tuberculosis disease - relapse or reactivation	0	0	2
Listeriosis – Perinatal	0	0	4	Tuberculosis infection - on preventive treatment	0	0	1
Malaria	0	0	3	Typhoid fever	0	0	1
Measles	0	0	1	VTEC/STEC infection	1	1	28
Meningococcal disease	0	0	9	Yersiniosis	1	4	28
Mumps	0	1	7				

### Influenza Vaccination 2010

The Ministry of Health is encouraging people to receive the trivalent seasonal influenza vaccine for 2010 to gain protection against the pandemic H1N1 strain as well as the two most common seasonal strains.

Supplies of seasonal vaccine are likely to arrive in March.

The Ministry has had indications that the pandemic influenza second wave could return earlier than normal for the influenza season.

The Ministry will now make a monovalent pandemic vaccine available in February 2010 as an 'early bird' option for frontline health staff and those most at risk of complications from H1N1.

The aim is to protect critical health services and protect those most vulnerable.

The Ministry will support the programme through a public communications campaign and will continue to liaise closely with DHBs, medical officers of health and primary care

providers. There will be two stages to the programme:

Stage	Vaccine	Timing	Target groups
1. Targeted pandemic	Baxter H1N1	start 1 February	health care workers those at risk of complications
2. Normal seasonal	seasonal trivalent	when sufficient seasonal vaccine arrives, in March	normal seasonal groups extra eligible groups for 2010 all people over 65 open to private market

The optional 'early bird' monovalent pandemic vaccine will be offered from early February to prioritised groups; frontline healthcare workers and those at particular risk from H1N1.

Unlike the seasonal influenza vaccine, it is a two-dose vaccine and only available in 10-dose vials which must all be used within three hours once opened. It is administered IM into the deltoid muscle.

As a result, additional training will be required for vaccinators. Web-based training modules are in development.

To avoid wastage, the early bird vaccine is to be offered in vaccination clinics or blocked appointments for groups in multiples of ten.

These clinics would need to be pre-booked and on request from those eligible, set appointments for a 'first dose' clinic and a 'second dose' clinic three weeks later.

The first dose needs to be administered by 19 February.

The Ministry acknowledges the restrictive nature of the logistics and very tight timeframes.

It is expected the early bird vaccine be available only as an optional extra for those eligible where it is feasible.

The seasonal influenza vaccine is the preferred vaccine and is recommended for all at risk, including those who receive the early bird monovalent pandemic vaccine.

#### **Paralytic shellfish poisoning reported**

A health warning advising the public not to eat shellfish from the east coast from Tairua east to the Whakatane River mouth was issued on 17 December 2009. Warning signs have been posted.

Regular shellfish monitoring for algal toxins detects Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP) toxin at times but it is unusual for human poisoning to be reported.

This summer at least six people are known to have had significant neurological symptoms within an hour of eating bivalve species gathered within the area of concern.

It is likely that many other cases have gone unrecognised and or unreported.

A number of cases have required hospital admission although no cases of actual paralysis have been reported.

Symptoms reported include paraesthesiae, tremor, loss of coordination and perceptual difficulties.

Practitioners may not associate sudden onset of neurological symptoms with shellfish poisoning. Please ask about shellfish

consumption and please report any further cases **on suspicion** to this office.

#### **Needle Exchange Waikato: 'NEWS'**

The Hamilton Needle Exchange now operates under new management and governance.

It is located at 16 Vialou St, Hamilton and offers a complete range of needles and syringes as well as more unusual items such as butterflies to the IDU community.

They also stock a range of accessories such as filters, sterile water, swabs and safer sex supplies.

Since the launch of the '1 4 1' programme, the Hamilton exchange has experienced an increase in used injecting equipment being returned and replaced with new injecting equipment at no cost to the clients.

The exchange has an electronic dispensing machine which allows clients also to access clean injecting equipment after hours.

Of note is an increase in the sales of insulin needles over the last six months, reflecting the amount of amphetamines being injected.

The Needle Exchange Services Trust Midlands manager Denise Gemmell and the local exchange coordinator Robyn Potts, are available to advise GPs on practical support for IDU clients interested in risk reduction.

The Exchange phone number is (07) 834 4309, or contact Denise on 027 279 2279.

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](mailto:bellan@waikatodhb.govt.nz)

[dumblef@waikatodhb.govt.nz](mailto: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 outside Hamilton

**0800 800 977**

*(In office hours)*

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

After hours help

**07 839 889**

