

PUBLIC HEALTH BULLETIN

Communicable diseases notified July 2010

Disease name	Jul-09	Jul-10	YTD	Disease name	Jul-09	Jul-10	YTD
Campylobacteriosis	31	34	316	Non Seasonal influenza A (H1N1)	120	62	63
Chemical poisoning from the environment				Paratyphoid fever	1	0	1
Cryptosporidiosis	5	4	34	Pertussis	24	6	62
Dengue fever	0	0	4	Poliomyelitis			
Gastroenteritis	2	0	16	Rheumatic fever - initial attack	2	1	12
Giardiasis	16	13	122	Rheumatic fever – recurrent attack	0	0	3
Haemophilus Influenza B	0	0	3	Ross River virus infection	0	0	1
Hepatitis A	0	0	3	Salmonellosis	8	7	54
Hepatitis B	0	0	1	Shigellosis	0	3	9
Invasive pneumococcal disease	11	7	25	Tetanus			
Lead absorption	0	3	13	Toxic Shellfish Poisoning	0	0	2
Legionellosis	0	0	2	Tuberculosis - treatment of latent infection	2	3	11
Leptospirosis	1	2	13	Tuberculosis disease - new case	0	3	12
Listeriosis – Perinatal	0	0	1	Tuberculosis disease - relapse or reactivation	0	0	1
Malaria	1	0	1	Tuberculosis infection - on preventive treatment	0	0	1
Measles				Typhoid fever	0	0	2
Meningococcal disease	2	1	3	VTEC/STEC infection	0	0	13
Mumps	1	0	1	Yersiniosis	2	0	10
Murine Typhus	0	4	6				

Free interpreters in 22 WPH practices

Professional interpreters can now be requested in 22 practices under Waikato Primary Health (WPH). Individuals, enrolled in those practices who were unable to access services because of language barriers may now access professional interpreters for FREE. This free interpreting may also be used to access other services like pharmacy, counselling, and other social services. To check which practices can provide this service or to know how to access interpreters please contact: Hamilton Interpreting Service at 07 853 2184.

Cremation after treatment with radionuclides

The Ministry of Health has recently updated its advice about the safe management of patients who may die soon after treatment with radioactive materials. Whilst this matter is primarily the responsibility of the prescribing clinician, other practitioners, funeral directors and cemetery and crematorium staff need to be aware of the potential risks.

This updated information has been circulated to Hamilton Park staff and funeral directors, and is available on request from this office. The National

Radiation Laboratory's website has an information sheet "Death of a patient treated with radioactive material" at www.nrl.moh.govt.nz/regulatory/regulatorypublications.asp

Influenza A H1N1

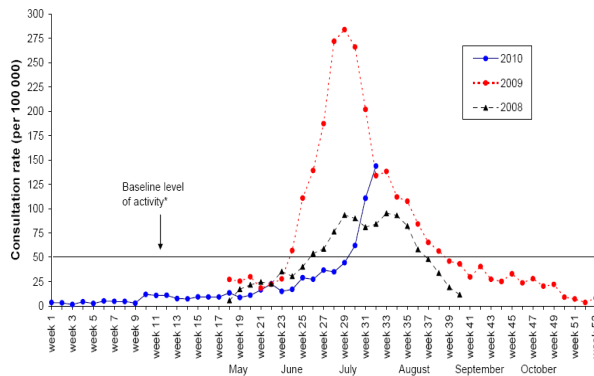
Sources: Recent MOH press release
Influenza weekly update-ESR

New Zealand and Waikato are currently experiencing an increase in cases of influenza A. The majority of those cases who are being swabbed and have a positive result have Influenza A H1N1, the same influenza A that was circulating last year (pandemic strain). This year however it appears to be acting as a seasonal influenza, except that most of those affected are under the age of 65 years. There have been approximately 999 cases of Influenza A H1N1 notified in New Zealand from 1 January to 15 August 2010

From 1 January to 16 August 2010, Population Health has had 137 cases notified; all but two in the last four weeks. Notifications will vary within Waikato and across New Zealand depending on swabbing criteria. Those with mild to moderate disease will not in general be notified.

All but three cases are aged < 65. Just over a third of cases have been hospitalised, however this is skewed because all hospitalised ILI cases are swabbed.

Figure 1: Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness in New Zealand, 2008, 2009 and 2010



School and work absenteeism is high. Anyone with ILI symptoms should stay home until 24 hours symptoms free. A letter has been sent to all schools regarding influenza and infection control. Those with severe symptoms, have a chronic disease, are pregnant or morbidly obese should seek medical attention early.

ICU clinicians are seeing cases from recognised risk groups, particularly pregnant or recent post-partum women where they have not been initially treated as if they may have Pandemic Influenza A (H1N1) 2009.

Guidance on the Diagnosis and Management of Pandemic Influenza H1N1) is available at: [http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/pagesmh/9171/\\$File/diagnosis-and-mgmt-h1n1-v5-19apr10.doc](http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/pagesmh/9171/$File/diagnosis-and-mgmt-h1n1-v5-19apr10.doc)

Use of Antivirals

National reserve antivirals are now available through standard prescribing processes. The revised antiviral policy at www.moh.govt.nz aims to minimise barriers to access to national reserve antivirals for patients with influenza-like illness and does not affect commercial or privately held supplies.

Rickettsia (Murine typhus)

Population Health Service has been notified of four cases of murine typhus (*Rickettsia typhi*) in the past six weeks; seven cases in total since January 2010. All live on rural properties in Waipa District.

Murine typhus is not new to Waikato; in 2006 a large number of cases were notified, and there have been several cases each year since.

Rickettsia typhi is an intracellular bacterium transmitted by fleas. Rats and their fleas are an important reservoir. Human contact with rat fleas, flea eggs and flea faeces can result in illness. Inhalation of flea faeces is considered the major mode of transmission.

After an incubation period of 1-2 weeks, non-specific symptoms begin – fever, headache, muscle pain, dry

cough, nausea and vomiting, and often a rash. These symptoms can be quite severe and prolonged with fever persisting for up to two weeks without treatment, and lethargy lasting months. Increased transaminases and reduced platelets are common. The clinical picture is similar to leptospirosis. Doxycycline is the treatment of choice.

A case is defined as:

Four-fold rise in titre for IgM or IgG antibodies against *R. typhi*, or Acute IgM >512 if single measurement only available (NB: serology is likely to be negative during the first 5 days)

Measles

A recent outbreak of measles was confined to two unvaccinated families in Auckland. So far seven cases have been reported.

Also there has been a recent outbreak of measles on the New South Wales [NSW] north coast with five people affected after contact with a traveller who brought the disease into the area. Two other travellers have also contracted the disease in recent weeks.

Please make sure children are up to date with their MMR vaccinations, and please ensure appropriate testing of anyone who may have measles.

<7 days after rash onset:

Nasopharyngeal and throats swab for measles PCR (please mark clearly) and blood for measles IgM and IgG.

>7 days after rash onset:

Blood for Measles IgM and IgG

Please ensure that you contact Population Health if you make a diagnosis of measles, as we can then assist with public health aspects of management.

Dell Hood -- Anita Bell -- Felicity Dumble:
Medical officers of health

MOoH after hours 021 359 650

If there is no answer, please contact Waikato Hospital's switchboard 07 839 8899 and ask for the on-call MOoH. During office hours, please call **Population Health 07 838 2569**

Email: anita.bell@waikatodhb.health.nz
felicity.dumble@waikatodhb.health.nz
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Notifications **07 838 2569 ext. 2065**
 Notifications outside Hamilton **0800 800 977**
 (In office hours)

Health protection officer (after hours) 021 999 521