

Hepetema/September 2020

Public Health Bulletin

Tēnā koutou katoa

COVID-19 Response

It has been a busy two months with some 'business as usual' having to take a backseat while we responded to the re-emergence of COVID-19 in our community. We are pleased to report that Waikato was able to quickly mobilise an effective team to follow-up and manage positive cases and their close contacts in our region. The systems we had put in place, following the first outbreak, saw us well placed to meet all local contact-tracing requirements.

Over the past month, testing rates have been high, with local communities and members of the public responding positively to the call to be tested. We would like to thank all those who have, and continue to play a role in ensuring testing services run efficiently. It is incredibly pleasing to report that no additional cases were detected following positive case exposure events at the rest home or medical centre. Kei runga noa atu!

Current Ministry of Health testing guidance continues to encourage all those with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 to be tested. Any person with symptoms, who also meets the Higher Index of Suspicion (HIS) criteria, should be advised to self-isolate while awaiting results and be notified to the on call Medical Officer of Health. An updated list of designated Waikato testing sites and General Practices can be found here: <https://www.waikatodhb.health.nz/your-health/covid-19-in-waikato/cbac/> Information on HIS criteria can be found on the Ministry of Health website.

Measles Mumps Rubella (MMR) Catch up

Measles is a serious and highly contagious illness which is notifiable to the Medical Officer of Health. New Zealand continues to experience outbreaks due to insufficient immunity across the population. The Measles Immunisation Campaign is a national campaign with the goal of equitably improving measles immunity across all New Zealand communities. In the Waikato, DHB, Primary and Community care sectors have been working hard to maximise the uptake of scheduled MMR vaccine and

actively recall those aged 5-14 years who have not had any or only one MMR vaccine. We would like to extend our thanks to all the vaccinators who have worked so hard over the past year to meet this need; you have done an amazing job!

As we move forward we will be working toward an extended immunisation campaign designed to engage rangatahi aged between 15-30 years. Keep an eye out for the campaign titled '*Guardians of the Future*' which will have a particular focus on engaging our Māori and Pacific Youth. Over the next 12 months we will be working closely with a wide range of stakeholders and providers to reduce barriers and provide innovative ways to support our young people to be vaccinated.



Tuberculosis (TB) management

You may have noticed that we continue to get confirmed cases of TB in the Waikato region. It is not uncommon for the PHU to receive calls soon after diagnosis, from concerned contacts (such as family and whānau) or primary care, requesting advice about testing. Contact identification and investigation is the role of the PHU and is usually actioned by the assigned Public Health Nurse in liaison with our Clinical Nurse Specialist (Kelly) or lead Medical Officer of Health for TB (Richard H). Following notification of a case we will usually advise along the following lines:

1. Only those with symptoms suggestive of TB need to be followed up urgently. They should consult their GP. This is rarely the case as TB is hard to catch and slow to develop. Also, not all TB is infectious
2. The PHN will interview the case (or appropriate informant) and identify potential contacts. Those people will then be contacted and an interview completed. The Clinical Nurse Specialist or MOoH will then advise on whether testing is appropriate, and if so the appropriate timing of testing.

3. It can take up to 8 weeks after last contact for tests to show evidence of exposure (Latent TB Infection) so there is often no point in urgent testing.

4. If in doubt discuss with us rather than test on demand.

Notifiable diseases – August 2020 compared to August 2019 (Waikato DHB)

Disease name	Waikato ¹				YTD		
	2019	2020	Change	2019-2020	Waikato	National	% ²
Campylobacteriosis	78	70	-8	▼	327	2,705	12
COVID-19	0	4	4	▲	191	1,763	11
Cryptosporidiosis	21	22	1	▲	44	302	15
Dengue fever	1	0	-1	▼	3	47	6
Gastroenteritis - unknown cause	1	1	0	-	3	79	4
Gastroenteritis / foodborne intoxication	10	1	-9	▼	21	97	22
Giardiasis	18	7	-11	▼	110	798	14
Hepatitis A	0	0	0	-	1	8	13
Hepatitis B	0	1	1	▲	4	18	22
Hepatitis NOS	0	0	0	-	2	20	10
Invasive pneumococcal disease	3	5	2	▲	31	213	15
Latent tuberculosis infection	2	0	-2	▼	5	214	2
Lead Poisoning	2	1	-1	▼	5	95	5
Legionellosis	1	0	-1	▼	5	81	6
Leptospirosis	1	1	0	-	10	35	29
Listeriosis	0	0	0	-	2	21	10
Listeriosis - perinatal	1	0	-1	▼	0	3	0
Malaria	0	0	0	-	1	12	8
Measles	6	0	-6	▼	0	10	0
Meningococcal disease	0	0	0	-	3	24	13
Mumps	0	0	0	-	2	150	1
Murine Typhus	1	0	-1	▼	1	1	100
Pertussis	6	1	-5	▼	14	158	9
Rheumatic fever - initial attack	0	3	3	▲	17	116	15
Rheumatic fever - recurrent attack	0	0	0	-	1	8	13
Rickettsial disease	0	1	1	▲	2	5	40
Salmonellosis	9	10	1	▲	41	452	9
Shigellosis	1	0	-1	▼	8	72	11
Taeniasis	0	0	0	-	1	5	20
Tuberculosis disease - new case	1	1	0	-	18	199	9
Typhoid fever	1	0	-1	▼	0	24	0
VTEC/STEC infection	11	17	6	▲	68	554	12
Yersiniosis	11	11	0	-	59	708	8

COVID-19 numbers for the month of August reflect community cases of COVID-19 identified in Waikato prior to movement to an Auckland managed quarantine facility. The numbers do not include cases identified in returning New Zealanders who are staying in Hamilton managed isolation facilities.

¹ Source Waikato DHB. Month August.

² 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

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