

Hānuere/January 2020

Public Health Bulletin

Public health bulletin survey

Ngā mihi nui / Thank you to all survey respondents. You provided useful feedback that will help us improve the delivery of public health information from our unit. Key findings included:

- 93% of respondents currently read the bulletin, with many also sending it to others within their organisation and printing it to put up in common areas for others to read.
- Overall, most found the bulletin to be a useful source of information, most recently important for the measles outbreak
- More respondents found the written content of the bulletin informative/useful, compared to the table and graph.

Although most respondents said that the current format, design, and length of the bulletin were adequate, a number of improvements were suggested. We have incorporated some of these suggestions into this current bulletin.

Past Public Health Bulletins

Bulletins from June 2017 can be found on the Waikato DHB website by searching 'public health bulletins' or at www.waikatodhb.health.nz/for-health-professionals/public-health-bulletins/

Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

Here is a summary on the novel Coronavirus, originating in Wuhan City, China:

- Detected case numbers have been increasing in Wuhan, and individual cases have been detected in other countries and elsewhere in China. All cases to date have spent time in Wuhan.
- There are no confirmed cases of 2019-nCoV to date. The Ministry of Health has stated that the likelihood of importing a case is high, however the likelihood of a widespread outbreak remains low.
- The Northern Hemisphere is in the middle of the winter season, therefore common respiratory illnesses are expected among travellers from China.
- There are currently no travel restrictions in New Zealand related to this outbreak.
- The virus can be spread through person-to-person transmission and symptoms include fever, coughing and difficulty breathing.
- Case definitions for health professionals, guidance on testing and management are available on the Ministry of Health website.

- Respiratory precautions should apply for any case of respiratory infection, irrespective of their travel history.
- Any acute respiratory illness in a close contact of a symptomatic confirmed case should be reported to the local medical officer of health for further follow-up.
- 2019-nCoV will become notifiable to the Medical Officer of Health, effective from Thursday 30 January 2020.
- New Zealand Ministry of Health is closely monitoring the international situation. Further information and health and border updates are available on:

The Ministry of Health website:

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/novel-coronavirus-china-2019-ncov>

Further information regarding Coronavirus can also be found at:

<https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus>

Ministry of Health monitoring air quality following Australian bushfires

The Ministry of Health is continuing to monitor and review the air quality data in New Zealand to assess the impact of the Australian bushfire smoke.

This data currently shows that the increases in particulate matter tend to be held in the upper atmosphere and are much more diluted at ground level. Data from air quality monitoring stations does not show the daily limits for particulates in air are being exceeded. This means the smoke that is being seen is not expected to impact on the air we breathe and any intermittent, short-term increases in smoke are unlikely to cause any significant health issues.

However, it is possible that some people may still experience ill effects even though the pollution levels remain relatively low.

People who are more at risk include those who suffer from asthma or other respiratory conditions, older people or those with chronic illnesses.

More general information on the Air Quality in the Waikato, and other regions, is available at Land Air Water Aotearoa (LAWA)

www.lawa.org.nz/explore-data/air-quality

Notifiable diseases - December 2019 compared to December 2018 (Waikato DHB)

Disease name	WAIKATO ¹			YTD		
	2018	2019	Change ₂₀₁₉₋₂₀₁₈	WAIKATO	NATIONAL	% ²
Campylobacteriosis	113	47	-66 ▼	619	6202	10
Chikungunya fever	0	0	0 -	2	11	18
Cryptosporidiosis	4	2	-2 ▼	112	1035	11
Dengue fever	0	1	1 ▲	35	225	16
Gastroenteritis - unknown cause	3	0	-3 ▼	4	165	2
Gastroenteritis / foodborne intoxication	8	12	4 ▲	119	329	36
Giardiasis	10	15	5 ▲	187	1750	11
Hepatitis A	0	0	0 -	6	60	10
Hepatitis B	0	0	0 -	3	29	10
Hepatitis NOS	0	0	0 -	2	9	22
Invasive pneumococcal disease	6	2	-4 ▼	44	497	9
Latent tuberculosis infection	0	4	4 ▲	20	224	9
Legionellosis	0	0	0 -	4	171	2
Leprosy	0	0	0 -	1	6	17
Leptospirosis	2	3	1 ▲	15	105	14
Listeriosis	0	0	0 -	2	25	8
Listeriosis - perinatal	0	0	0 -	1	6	17
Lead Absorption	0	2	2 ▲	17	<i>no data</i>	-
Malaria	0	0	0 -	2	29	7
Measles	0	0	0 -	51	2213	2
Meningococcal disease	0	0	0 -	10	140	7
Mumps	0	4	4 ▲	25	266	9
Murine Typhus	0	0	0 -	1	1	100
Pertussis	14	1	-13 ▼	141	1234	11
Rheumatic fever - initial attack	1	1	0 -	12	157	8
Rheumatic fever - recurrent attack	0	1	1 ▲	4	17	24
Ross River virus infection	0	1	1 ▲	1	6	17
Salmonellosis	8	5	-3 ▼	96	1189	8
Shigellosis	3	0	-3 ▼	13	252	5
Tuberculosis disease - new case	4	2	-2 ▼	29	318	9
Tuberculosis disease - relapse or reactivation	0	0	0 -	1	17	6
Typhoid fever	1	0	-1 ▼	6	56	11
VTEC/STEC infection	10	2	-8 ▼	107	1104	10
Yersiniosis	4	1	-3 ▼	75	1186	6
Zika virus	0	0	0 -	2	7	29

¹Number of cases. Source: Waikato DHB.

²Waikato YTD count as a proportion of national data.

Medical Officers of Health: Felicity Dumble – Richard Wall – Richard Vipond – Richard Hoskins

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

Previous Bulletins at: www.waikatodhb.health.nz/for-health-professionals/public-health-bulletins/