

Hune / June 2020

Public Health Bulletin

COVID-19

The past few months have been an incredibly busy time for the Waikato PHU. We have followed up 188 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 171 household contacts.

We would like to thank all the additional staff that were redeployed to the PHU to support the COVID-19 response. The public health nurses, doctors, Te Puna Oranga staff, Sport Waikato staff, and others have been invaluable in supporting our contact tracing and case and household management efforts.



We celebrated the PHNs' hard mahi with a 4kg COVID-19 cake!

We would also like to say a big thank you to our Primary Care colleagues. We all found it challenging with new processes and protocols constantly changing. We appreciate the work done managing COVID-19 in the community as well as other illnesses and injuries under stressful conditions.

COVID-19 notifications

The suspect case definition is under review as we have moved down alert levels, and in anticipation of an increase in respiratory illnesses as winter approaches. A new case definition will soon be available. Continue to keep up to date at: <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-resources-health-professionals/case-definition-covid-19-infection>
<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-resources-health-professionals/covid-19-advice-all-health-professionals>

Any COVID-19 swabbing done at GP practices remains notifiable on suspicion. You do not need to speak to us. It is preferable that you notify the PHU using the COVID-19 notification form on BPAC. We appreciate that there have been concerns raised

about the length and content of the BPAC form and we are looking at simplifying it. In the meantime, please continue to use the current BPAC notification form. If your practice does not have this in place, then please complete and send through an electronic form available [here](#).

Rheumatic Fever update

Since 1/1/20 we have had 12 acute cases of Rheumatic Fever. We have also had 2 others, who have been missed previously as acute cases. (To put this into perspective, in 2019 we had a total of 9 acute cases). A number of these patients have been so unwell they have been admitted to CCU.

Please be vigilant swabbing sore throats and think rheumatic fever if someone presents with arthritis, arthralgia, fever, subcutaneous nodules or erythema marginatum.

Refer to

<https://www.heartfoundation.org.nz/shop/heart-healthcare/non-stock-resources/gas-sore-throat-rheumatic-fever-guideline.pdf> for more information.

Refugee Health update

As you may be aware Auckland Regional Public Health Service will no longer be providing Refugee Health Screening Services (RHSS) at Mangere Refugee Resettlement Centre (MRRC) from 1 July this year. As part of the transition period they are changing the approach to the immunisation programme. It is effective for January and March 2020 intake groups only.

From January 20th 2020, RHSS will ensure that everyone has had MMR 1 and Polio 1 (for listed countries: Pakistan, Afghanistan, Syria, Malaysia, Ethiopia, Rwanda) and will immunise those considered high needs (e.g. immune-compromised, pregnant). A significant number of our population have received MMR and polio offshore. Consequently, they will no longer provide a catch-up immunisation programme for every former refugee.

To assist with immunisation uptake on resettlement, RHSS will enter offshore immunisation records plus any vaccinations given at RHSS into the Medtech 32 file. This will ensure transfer of data through to NIR and assist GPs to commence the NZ Immunisation 2017 Catch-up schedule. RHSS continues to provide

GP2GP e-transfer of all medical information, including immunisations given (offshore/at RHSS).

Due to COVID-19 there will be no intakes of refugees

until further notice. However the refugee intake that arrived prior to lockdown has been at the MRRC and is now able to be resettled in the regions. Waikato refugee arrivals are expected on 19th June.

Notifiable Diseases – February to May 2020 compared to same period, 2019 (Waikato DHB)

Disease name	Waikato ¹				YTD		
	2019	2020	Change	2019-2020	Waikato	National	% ²
Campylobacteriosis	154	113	-41	▼	184	1,595	12
COVID-19	0	188	188	▲	188	1,511	12
Cryptosporidiosis	15	13	-2	▼	15	157	10
Dengue fever	24	2	-22	▼	3	45	7
Gastroenteritis - unknown cause	2	2	0	■	2	44	5
Gastroenteritis / foodborne intoxication	35	14	-21	▼	17	68	25
Giardiasis	84	59	-25	▼	79	552	14
Hepatitis A	5	1	-4	▼	1	18	6
Hepatitis B	1	2	1	▲	2	12	17
Hepatitis NOS	0	1	1	▲	1	9	11
Invasive pneumococcal disease	13	13	0	■	19	103	18
Latent tuberculosis infection	8	2	-6	▼	2	62	3
Legionellosis	1	3	2	▲	5	50	10
Leptospirosis	3	2	-1	▼	5	24	21
Listeriosis	0	1	1	▲	2	13	15
Malaria	1	1	0	■	1	9	11
Measles	3	0	-3	▼	0	9	0
Meningococcal disease	3	0	-3	▼	0	8	0
Mumps	1	0	-1	▼	2	144	1
Murine Typhus	0	1	1	▲	1	1	100
Pertussis	76	9	-67	▼	10	139	7
Rheumatic fever - initial attack	5	8	3	▲	11	87	13
Rheumatic fever - recurrent attack	3	1	-2	▼	1	7	14
Rickettsial disease	0	1	1	▲	1	2	50
Salmonellosis	28	20	-8	▼	27	320	8
Shigellosis	4	3	-1	▼	6	61	10
Taeniasis	0	1	1	▲	1	5	20
Tuberculosis disease - new case	11	10	-1	▼	11	115	10
Typhoid fever	3	0	-3	▼	0	23	0
VTEC/STEC infection	47	33	-14	▼	40	355	11
Yersiniosis	24	20	-4	▼	29	389	7

¹Number of cases. Source Waikato DHB.

²Waikato 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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