

November 2018

## PUBLIC HEALTH BULLETIN

### HPV vaccine available

We are pleased to inform you that vaccinators outside of school based programmes are now able to order unrestricted quantities of HPV vaccine (as of Monday 12 November). General practices and other vaccinators have been able to order one box of the vaccine per fortnight per practice since mid-October. As there are sufficient supplies for school based programmes to finish vaccination and a new shipment is expected to arrive shortly, this restriction is now lifted. Practices should not book patients until they have the vaccine on site.

Patients who have begun the vaccination course (two doses for those aged 14 and under, three doses for those aged 15 and older) and are overdue for a second or third dose will not have to begin the course again.

Patients who have turned 27 years of age since 1 April 2018 and who receive their first dose of HPV vaccine by 1 April 2019, and international students who turn 18 years of age during this period, will still be eligible to complete their free vaccination course. Please submit a manual claim for doses given to these patients.

### Meningococcal Disease Update

There has been a significant increase in *Neisseria meningitidis* serogroup W (MenW) in New Zealand since mid-2017. In 2018 there have been 24 cases reported so far, including six deaths, double the number of cases and deaths in 2017. Prior to 2017 zero to six cases of MenW were reported each year.

Overall the annual number of meningococcal disease cases due to all serogroups has been increasing steadily since 2014. This particular strain of MenW affects all age groups and is associated with a high case-fatality rate.

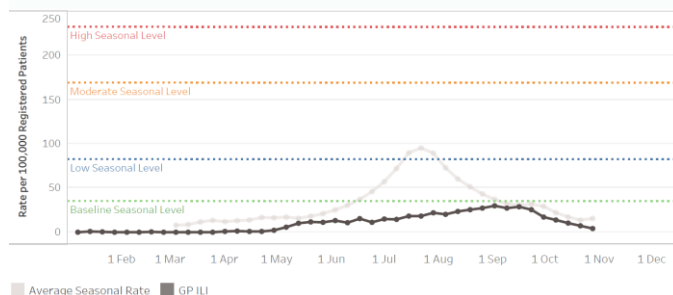
MenW can present with the classical signs of meningococcal disease but also **atypically** with gastro-intestinal symptoms, as well as pneumonia, septic arthritis, endocarditis or epi/supraglottitis. Because of the fulminant nature of meningococcal sepsis, antibiotics should be administered on suspicion of diagnosis before transferring the patient to hospital. A blood sample should be taken as soon as possible for laboratory testing, but should not delay patient treatment or transfer.

The quadrivalent MCV4-D vaccine (Menactra) protects against MenW and is available in NZ. It is recommended for high risk groups and funded for some of them - please refer to the [meningococcal disease chapter in the Immunisation Handbook](#). Please make sure that high risk patients for whom the vaccine is funded are protected.

### 2018 Influenza season

From GP surveillance, the ESR graph below indicates the rate of Influenza-like-Illness (ILI) has been lower in 2018 than average. There were concerns that we would experience a severe season as there were increased rates of mortality and morbidity in the preceding northern hemisphere season. We should not be complacent however and encourage all practices to have active recall systems for 2019 (including for eligible children).

Weekly General Practice Influenza-like Illness (ILI) Rates To 28 Oct 18



### Notification of sexually transmitted infections

A reminder that the new system for notification of specified STIs is now in operation. AIDS, HIV infection, syphilis and gonorrhoea are notifiable diseases which health practitioners must notify using non-identifiable data. Notification must be made through this process and **cannot be made by phone**.

For **syphilis, gonorrhoea** and **AIDS**, go to the [ESR STI surveillance web page](#)<sup>1</sup> and follow the relevant instructions. A link to the STI surveillance website will also be placed on Health Pathways.

Cases of **HIV infection** are notified directly by laboratories, but the AIDS Epidemiology Group will then send a link to an HIV notification form for completion by notifying health practitioners.

### BCG Vaccine

A reminder that now that BCG vaccine is available for both:

- new-born babies that meet the high risk criteria and
- babies under 5 years that meet the same criteria and whose caregivers request BCG vaccination.

People that meet these criteria can be referred to the PHNs. See our website for details of eligibility and further information:

<https://www.waikatodhb.health.nz/for-health-professionals/bcg-vaccination-assessment-form/> (a link in the "For Health Professionals" section of our website). **Remember to fax referrals to (07) 834 0039** (not to the Public Health Unit).

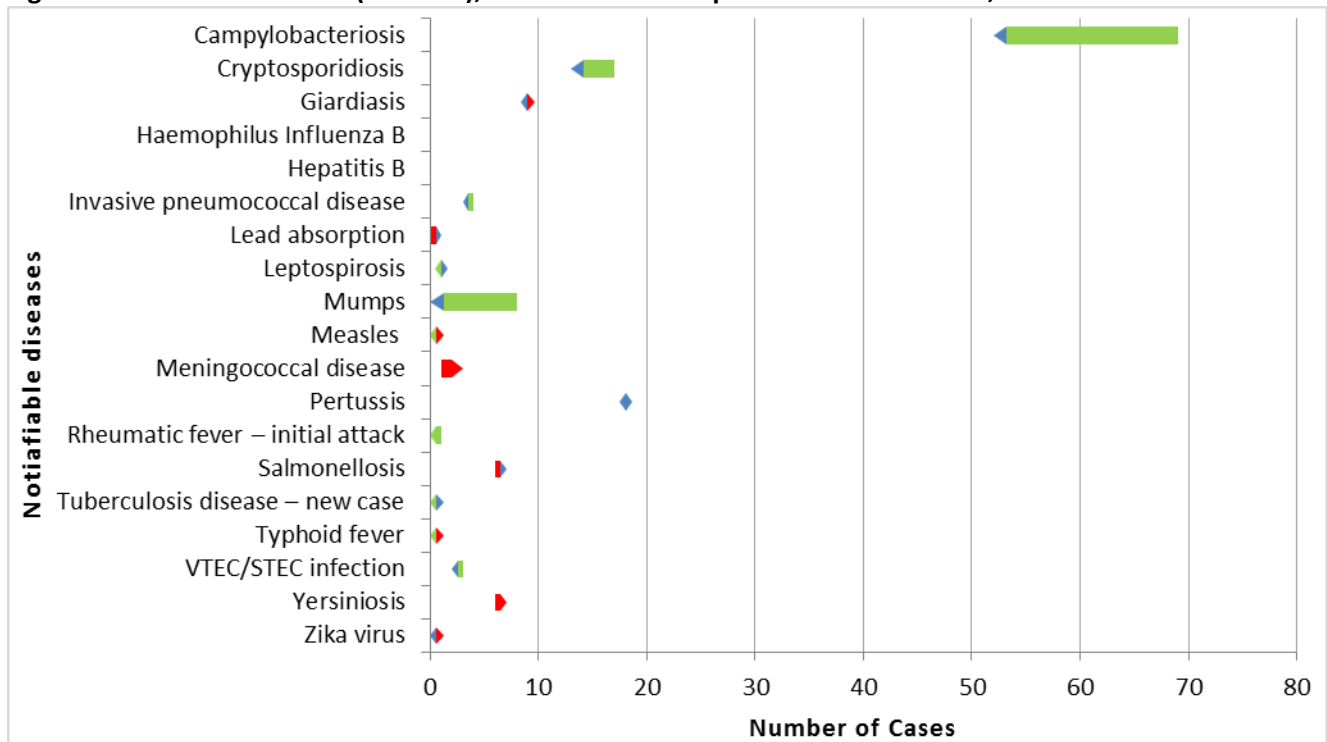
<sup>1</sup> ESR STI surveillance page

[https://surv.esr.cri.nz/public\\_health\\_surveillance/sti\\_surveillance.php](https://surv.esr.cri.nz/public_health_surveillance/sti_surveillance.php)

**Communicable diseases notified October 2018**

Disease name	Oct 2017	Oct 2018	YTD	Disease name	Oct 2017	Oct 2018	YTD
Campylobacteriosis	69	52	479	Meningococcal disease	1	3	8
Cryptosporidiosis	17	13	125	Mumps	8	0	9
Cysticercosis	0	0	1	Murine Typhus	0	0	1
Dengue fever	0	0	22	Pertussis	18	18	277
Gastroenteritis – unknown cause	1	0	2	Rheumatic fever - initial attack	1	0	8
Gastroenteritis – foodborne intoxication	0	0	3	Rheumatic fever – recurrent attack	0	0	1
Giardiasis	9	9	134	Rickettsial disease	0	0	1
Hepatitis A	0	1	6	Salmonellosis	6	7	93
Invasive pneumococcal disease	4	3	38	Shigellosis	1	1	13
Latent Tuberculosis infection	3	2	43	Toxic Shellfish Poisoning	0	0	1
Legionellosis	0	0	5	Tuberculosis disease - new case	0	0	14
Leprosy	0	1	1	Tuberculosis disease – relapse or reactivation	0	0	1
Lead absorption	0	1	19	Typhoid fever	0	0	3
Leptospirosis	1	1	19	VTEC/STEC infection	3	2	40
Malaria	0	0	3	Yersiniosis	6	7	68
Measles	0	0	1	Zika virus	0	0	1

**Figure 1: Notifiable diseases (selected), October 2018 compared to October 2017, Waikato DHB**



**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](mailto:notifiablediseases@waikatodhb.health.nz)