

## Waikato Public Health Bulletin

Tēnā koutou katoa. We hope you enjoy this edition of the Waikato Public Health Bulletin and we welcome your feedback.

### In this month's bulletin:

1. Dengue fever in Samoa, Fiji, French Polynesia and New Caledonia
2. Flu Tracking
3. Staff news
4. Notifiable diseases trends

The bulletin is aimed at GPs and colleagues in primary and community care.

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### Dengue fever in Samoa, Fiji, French Polynesia and New Caledonia

There is currently a significant outbreak of dengue fever in Samoa. An outbreak was declared on the 19<sup>th</sup> of April, and numbers remain high with 61 new cases of dengue-like illness declared for the week of 22-28 April. The majority of confirmed cases are in those aged over 60 or under 10, and those living in the North-West Upolu and Apia areas.

A person can become infected with the dengue virus after being bitten by a dengue-infected mosquito. The mosquitoes that carry dengue typically live in tropical countries and are not found in New Zealand, making a travel history a key component of assessment. Common symptoms include:

- Sudden onset of fever
- Headache, particularly retro-orbital
- Myalgia and arthralgia
- A fine rash, which may be itchy, usually begins on the extremities but spares the palms and soles of the feet

- Weakness
- Depression
- Anorexia
- Abnormal taste
- Sore throat
- Coughing
- Vomiting
- Abdominal pain

Warning signs of severe dengue, which warrants referral for hospital admission, include severe abdominal pain, mucosal bleeding, liver enlargement, fluid accumulation and persistent vomiting.

**Notification of dengue fever should be made to the local Medical Officer of Health on suspicion.** No isolation is required.

Further information about dengue in English and Samoan is available at <https://info.health.nz/conditions-treatments/infectious-diseases/dengue/>.

### Flu Tracking

Flu Tracking is an online health surveillance system used to detect the potential spread of influenza and COVID-19. The platform has been running for 17 years in Australia and 5 in New Zealand, with up to 110,000 participants per week completing a brief symptom survey.

This crowd-sourced data enables:

- Community level influenza-like and COVID-like illness surveillance
- Consistent surveillance of influenza and COVID-19 activity across all jurisdictions and over time
- Year-to-year comparison of the timing, attack rates and seriousness of COVID-19 and influenza in the country

Please visit <https://info.flutracking.net/> to sign up or to view their reports and maps.

### Staff News

This month we say a tearful farewell to refugee and new migrant nurse, Karen Jensen after 49 years of service and 12 within our Waikato Public Health Unit. We wish her all the very best!



We also welcome a number of new staff members, including five Kaihāpai Oranga (Community Connectors).

Chanelle Whata – Kaihāpai Oranga

Annie-Marie Midwood – Kaihāpai Oranga

Muffy Tahu – Kaihāpai Oranga

Paris Armstrong – Kaihāpai Oranga

Mereana Inia – Kaihāpai Oranga

Roxanne Salele - Pacific Oranga

Chris Mayo – House Officer in Public Health

#### **Medical Officers of Health (MOoH):**

Dr Felicity Dumble, Dr Richard Wall, Dr Richard Vipond, Dr Elizabeth Becker, Dr Kate Meerkerk

#### **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:**

**Public Health (MOoH or HPO):** (07) 838 2569      **Notifications:** 07 838 2569 ext. 22041 or 22020

**Notifications outside Hamilton:** 0800 800 977      **Fax:** 07 838 2382

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

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Previous Bulletins at: [www.waikatodhb.health.nz/for-health-professionals/public-health-bulletins/](http://www.waikatodhb.health.nz/for-health-professionals/public-health-bulletins/)

## Notifiable Diseases – Trends

Notifiable diseases (Waikato District) - period to: May 2024

\*Stats NZ estimated 8.69% of the population resided in Waikato in 2021

Disease name	Waikato cases per month			Cases per month over the last year (mean)		
	March	April	Trend	Waikato	National	% Waikato*
Botulism	0	0	•	0.0	0.0	-
Brucellosis	0	0	•	0.0	0.3	0
Campylobacteriosis	35	31	▼	48.6	494.3	10
COVID-19	1,604	895	▼	2,124.4	24,956.5	9
Cryptosporidiosis	2	7	▲	11.0	106.1	10
Decompression sickness	0	0	•	0.0	0.1	0
Dengue fever	0	3	▲	0.5	7.1	7
Diphtheria	0	0	•	0.0	0.3	0
Gastroenteritis - unknown cause	2	4	▲	2.4	23.7	10
Gastroenteritis / foodborne intoxication	6	8	▲	5.6	16.0	35
Giardiasis	9	13	▲	10.3	74.9	14
Haemophilus influenzae type b	0	0	•	0.0	0.1	0
Hepatitis A	0	0	•	0.2	4.0	5
Hepatitis B	0	0	•	0.1	1.2	8
Hepatitis C	0	0	•	0.1	3.0	3
Hepatitis NOS	0	0	•	0.3	0.5	60
Hydatid disease	0	0	•	0.0	0.2	0
Invasive pneumococcal disease	1	3	▲	4.4	62.1	7
Latent tuberculosis infection	0	2	▲	1.1	6.9	16
Legionellosis	1	0	▼	1.3	17.5	7
Leprosy	0	0	•	0.0	0.3	0
Leptospirosis	4	6	▲	2.8	11.5	24
Listeriosis	0	0	•	0.3	2.4	13
Listeriosis - perinatal	0	0	•	0.0	0.3	0
Malaria	0	0	•	0.1	4.3	2
Measles	0	0	•	0.2	1.1	18
Meningococcal disease	0	0	•	0.5	4.9	10
Mumps	0	0	•	0.0	2.6	0
Murine Typhus	0	0	•	0.0	0.0	-
Pertussis	0	3	▲	1.1	15.6	7
Q fever	0	0	•	0.0	0.1	0
Rheumatic fever - initial attack	2	1	▼	1.0	16.3	6
Rheumatic fever - recurrent attack	0	0	•	0.2	1.2	17
Salmonellosis	1	5	▲	4.3	67.7	6
Shigellosis	1	0	▼	0.7	14.2	5
Taeniasis	0	0	•	0.0	0.1	0
Tetanus	0	0	•	0.0	0.1	0
Tuberculosis disease - new case	2	6	▲	2.3	27.1	8
Tuberculosis disease - relapse or reactivation	0	0	•	0.0	1.2	0
Tuberculosis infection - on preventive treatment	0	0	•	0.0	0.2	0
Typhoid fever	3	3	•	0.7	5.0	14
VTEC/STEC infection	10	5	▼	7.1	88.9	8
Yersiniosis	3	9	▲	7.2	104.5	7