

## 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. Measles and mumps notifications
2. Pertussis
3. Staff news
4. Notifiable diseases trends

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

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### Measles and mumps notifications

Please remember if you suspect a patient has measles or mumps:

- Notify the Public Health Service [on suspicion](#), do not wait for test results to come back
- The patient should be in isolation until they receive a negative result

### Pertussis

There has recently been a significant rise in pertussis cases, with 72 cases notified across the country in May alone. Cases have been across most ethnicities and ages. This is shown on the ESR Pertussis Dashboard, found [here](#).

Epidemics of pertussis have continued to occur every 3-5 years, with the last national outbreak in Aotearoa beginning in late 2017 and continuing through 2018.

Pertussis can be particularly severe for babies, who may require hospital level care.

Key vaccination messages include:

- Advise **pregnant people** of the local increase in pertussis and recommend the free Boostrix vaccination from 16 weeks in every pregnancy
- Encourage pertussis vaccine for the **extended whānau of pregnant people, new babies** and infants
- Encourage **all staff** to be protected from pertussis as well as influenza and measles
- Continue to **prioritise on time immunisation for all babies** at 6 weeks, 3 months and 5 months

Pertussis PCR is the recommended test for people presenting with characteristic symptoms. PCR testing after 4 weeks from symptom onset, or three weeks from onset of cough, is not useful given the sensitivity of the test declines with time. The use of serology is generally not recommended.

As with measles and mumps, pertussis cases should be notified to the Public Health Service [on suspicion](#).

### Staff News

Huge acknowledgement to our very own **Senior Dietitian Sarah Agar** who has recently completed 15 years of long service working for the Waikato DHB/Health NZ organisation.

Sarah has worked in paediatrics, eating disorders and the renal space within the hospital and now has an invigorating passion working in public health dietetics. She continues to show great leadership in the food environments and nutrition space, leading the Healthy Active Learning team across the Waikato region. Sarah currently plays an integral role in leading and supporting

community food projects through Ookura and Nourishing Young Minds, and has been valuable in providing dietetic expertise across the Waikato/Taupo community and whānau wellbeing team. We want to congratulate Sarah for her awesome mahi that she has contributed in the last 15 years!



*Sarah and Jen in the office*

Further congratulations to **Jennifer Chua** - after graduating with a Master of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics in 2015, Jen would find her family commitments taking her down a different path for some time. Public Health Nutrition is something Jen has always believed to be important and where she would eventually come back to.

In the months of March and May, Jen sat The Dieticians Board Registration exam that comprises both an oral and a written component.

We want to congratulate Jen for her awesome mahi in gaining her registration! In Jen's words it has been the "best decision ever" and she wants to give a shout out to Sarah Agar and Tanimakin Nooti for their unwavering faith in her. "I'm now very excited to continue this journey as a public health dietitian and learn from everyone as much as I can!"

We additionally have two new staff members joining our unit, Megan Thompson and Mauro Campos, who will be working as Administration Coordinators for the Community and Whānau Wellbeing team. Welcome!



*Ko Tainui Tōku Waka  
Ko Taupiri Tōku Maunga  
Ko Waikato Tōku Awa  
Ko Kai-A-Te-Mata Tōku Marae  
Ko Waikato Tōku Iwi  
Ko Ngāti Hauā Tōku Hapū  
Ko Megan Thompson Tōku Ingoa*

One of Megan's favourite whakataukī, for mahi and life, is *He waka eke noa*. This whakataukī has several meanings, one of which is "a waka we are all in together" – we are all in this together – we rise together, fall together, work together, keep going together.



Tēnā koutou katoa. My name is Mauro, a Brazilian national who came to New Zealand in 2021 after living in London for more than 18 years. I am married to a midwife (working at Waikato Hospital) and a father of 2 daughters: 17 and 13 years old currently studying at Hamilton Girls.

I love cycling, travelling, hot weather and nature. I have a BA in Linguistics and Language and I'm half way through my MSc degree in Psychology and just started my Te Reo Māori course at Open Polytechnic.

I have had administrative and semi clinical roles in the UK and was fortunate enough to secure a job at Waikato Hospital as a HCA 4 weeks after I arrived in Aotearoa. After 2 years working in a mental health residential service and I'm back here! *Kia ora!*

**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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**Did you enjoy our bulletin? Please share it with your colleagues**

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: June 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)		
	April	May	Trend	Waikato	National	% Waikato*
Botulism	0	0	-	0.0	0.0	-
Brucellosis	0	0	-	0.0	0.3	0
Campylobacteriosis	31	29	▼	48.3	490.8	10
COVID-19	895	2,076	▲	1,878.6	22,160.4	8
Cryptosporidiosis	7	9	▲	11.0	114.3	10
Decompression sickness	0	0	-	0.0	0.1	0
Dengue fever	3	2	▼	0.7	8.5	8
Diphtheria	0	0	-	0.0	0.2	0
Gastroenteritis - unknown cause	4	1	▼	2.3	23.4	10
Gastroenteritis / foodborne intoxication	8	5	▼	5.3	15.9	33
Giardiasis	13	8	▼	9.7	72.6	13
Haemophilus influenzae type b	0	0	-	0.0	0.2	0
Hepatitis A	0	0	-	0.1	4.0	3
Hepatitis B	0	0	-	0.1	1.3	8
Hepatitis C	0	0	-	0.1	3.1	3
Hepatitis NOS	0	0	-	0.3	0.5	60
Hydatid disease	0	0	-	0.0	0.2	0
Invasive pneumococcal disease	3	2	▼	4.5	63.8	7
Latent tuberculosis infection	2	2	-	1.2	8.3	14
Legionellosis	0	1	▲	1.3	16.8	8
Leprosy	0	0	-	0.0	0.3	0
Leptospirosis	6	3	▼	2.8	11.7	24
Listeriosis	0	0	-	0.3	2.1	14
Listeriosis - perinatal	0	0	-	0.0	0.3	0
Malaria	0	0	-	0.1	4.0	3
Measles	0	0	-	0.2	0.9	22
Meningococcal disease	0	1	▲	0.5	4.5	11
Mumps	0	0	-	0.0	2.7	0
Murine Typhus	0	0	-	0.0	0.0	-
Pertussis	3	5	▲	1.3	21.5	6
Q fever	0	0	-	0.0	0.0	-
Rheumatic fever - initial attack	1	0	▼	0.8	16.2	5
Rheumatic fever - recurrent attack	0	0	-	0.2	1.3	15
Salmonellosis	5	5	-	4.5	66.1	7
Shigellosis	0	0	-	0.6	13.8	4
Taeniasis	0	0	-	0.0	0.1	0
Tetanus	0	0	-	0.0	0.1	0
Tuberculosis disease - new case	6	1	▼	2.0	26.8	7
Tuberculosis disease - relapse or reactivation	0	0	-	0.0	1.3	0
Tuberculosis infection - on preventive treatment	0	0	-	0.0	0.1	0
Typhoid fever	3	1	▼	0.7	5.0	14
VTEC/STEC infection	5	1	▼	6.6	89.1	7
Yersiniosis	9	3	▼	6.7	101.5	7