



Well Child Tamariki Ora (WCTO) Provider Update

May 2019

From the WCTO Promotion Team at the Immunisation Advisory Centre

In this newsletter:

- Measles outbreak update
- World Smokefree Day (31 May)
- Unflued gas heaters
- Well Child Tamariki Ora review update and details of upcoming symposia

Measles outbreak – update

This year, there have been outbreaks of measles in Canterbury, Auckland and Waikato, with cases also reported in the Bay of Plenty, Lakes, Northland, Capital and Coast and Southern DHB regions.¹ At time of writing, the number of confirmed cases nationally was 132. The immunisation status of these cases are overwhelmingly not vaccinated.² The Immunisation Advisory Centre (IMAC) and New Zealand Ministry of Health advise that infants living outside the Canterbury DHB region, receive their MMR vaccinations as per the Immunisation Schedule (dose 1 at 15 months, dose 2 at 4 years). See the [IMAC website](#) for [more MMR vaccination advice for children of all ages](#) and [to subscribe to the IMAC newsletter](#).

World Smokefree Day (WSD) 31st May



World Smokefree day (WSD) is Aotearoa's version of the annual international event known as World No Tobacco Day. The focus of this year's WSD is on reducing the availability of tobacco in communities, a campaign called 'Stop the Stock'.

Objectives of WSD include raising awareness of the smokefree policy, with the aim of reducing exposure to second-hand smoke and increasing quit attempts.

WSD is a great opportunity to talk about quitting with those who smoke and offer cessation support as necessary.

See Hāpai Te Hauora's [resources](#) page, and go to smokefree.org.nz for a [World Smokefree Day Toolkit](#), assorted [resources](#) and a [clickable map](#) to search for local stop smoking services information in your region.

Quit advisors at Quitline (0800 778 778 or text 4006) can work with people who smoke to make a plan to stop.

¹ <https://www.health.govt.nz/your-health/conditions-and-treatments/diseases-and-illnesses/measles/2019-measles-outbreak-information>

² This includes people reported not to have received any doses of the measles vaccine, or those reported to have received a single vaccine dose within 14 days of disease onset, or those whose immunisation status is unknown. https://surv.esr.cri.nz/PDF_surveillance/MeaslesRpt/2019/WeeklyMeasles06052019.pdf

Unflued gas heating

As winter approaches, it is timely to recall the association between unflued gas heating and potential health risks. Unflued gas heaters burn gas to produce heat and have no flue or chimney to carry away emissions or moisture produced during operation. Unflued gas heaters can be portable and plugged into a wall gas outlet through a wall or floor socket with a flexible hose, or may be LPG cabinet heaters. Others may be fixed to the wall.

Used as household heating, moisture emitted from unflued gas heaters can remain in the home, creating damp and mould. Pollutants such as nitrogen dioxide and carbon monoxide are also emitted, and without ventilation, are an additional health hazard. Children already vulnerable to respiratory illness are more likely to suffer adverse health effects from exposure to pollutants produced from unflued gas heaters.

The [Ministry of Health website](#) recommends the following, to reduce exposure to pollutants from unflued gas heaters:

- The room needs to be well ventilated.
- Keep internal doors and at least one window open to allow fresh air to enter the room.
- Check that room vents are not blocked.
- Never use an unflued gas heater in the room where you sleep, in a bathroom, caravan or tent.
- Minimise the length of time you use an unflued gas heater.
- Make sure your heater is installed by a licensed gas fitter.
- Read and follow manufacturer's instructions for using your heater.
- Have your unflued gas heater serviced by a qualified person at least once a year. Heaters that are not in good working order can release higher amounts of pollutants into the air. Do not do any maintenance on an unflued gas heater yourself.³



If families are considering alternative forms of heating, they could consider an electric heater. Energywise provides information [about different kinds of heating sources](#).

Note that families with whom you work may be eligible for [subsidised home insulation through the Warmer Kiwi Homes programme](#).

Well Child Tamariki Ora review

The Ministry of Health provided a recent [update](#) about progress of the [Well Child Tamariki Ora Review](#).

The update includes important Review milestones:

- June 2019: Early Analysis Phase. Gather evidence and data to inform the shape of the Review.
- June – October 2019: Options Phase. Test possible improvements to Well Child Tamariki Ora.
- October 2019 – 1 July 2020: Implementation Phase. The first changes to Well Child Tamariki Ora are expected to be in place from 1 July 2020.

³ <https://www.health.govt.nz/your-health/healthy-living/environmental-health/household-items-and-electronics/unflued-gas-heaters>

At the heart of the Review is enabling all stakeholders to have a say about what's working, what needs to change, and what will make the programme more equitable. Engagement has begun to achieve this – the Ministry of Health will make sure you're kept up-to-date about the feedback process.

Please email the Review team if you have any questions or feedback: wcto@moh.govt.nz

Well Child Tamariki Ora Symposia

We are running WCTO symposia around the country for all those involved in planning and delivery of WCTO services. Content focuses on updating us on topics of importance including developmental issues, family violence, drug and alcohol exposure, nutrition, immunisation and supporting providers. Evaluation feedback from attendees to date has been very positive. We welcome any further feedback as to how to continue deliver these symposia most effectively. [Click here to access slides content from previous symposia.](#)

Upcoming WCTO Symposiums

[Click here to see more and register](#)



- 5 June 2019, at the Manawatu Golf Club, Centennial Drive, Palmerston North

Save the dates

- 24 October 2019, Dunedin
- 14 November 2019, Waikato

These symposiums are a great networking and learning opportunity. Come and connect with others involved in the Well Child Tamariki Ora programme.

Upcoming events

- International Day of Families: 15 May
- World Smokefree Day: 31 May
- Queen's Birthday: 3 June
- Matariki: 10 June
- World Breastfeeding Week 1-7 August
- [Immunisation Advisory Centre Workshop and Conference](#): 5-7 September

Website address: www.wellchild.org.nz

Newsletter mail-out dates for 2019: 13 August & 12 November.



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