



Well Child Tamariki Ora (WCTO) Provider Update

May 2020

The WCTO Promotion Team at the Immunisation Advisory Centre wishes you well in your bubbles

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Immunisation Week, 3—9 May, 2020

Last week, we celebrated Immunisation Week.

To reduce the burden on the health system and minimise the added risk of morbidity and/or mortality from vaccine-preventable diseases, it is critical that immunisation services remain as undisrupted as possible during the COVID-19 pandemic. The World Health Organization's (WHO's) guiding principles for immunisation activities during the pandemic¹ states that "[D]isruption of immunisation services, even for brief periods, will result in increased numbers of susceptible individuals and raise the likelihood of outbreak-prone vaccine preventable diseases (VPDs) such as measles."² Maintaining immunisation services is part of the New Zealand COVID-19 response. Now more than ever, we should remind families of the importance of vaccinating their children, support them to get vaccinated and encourage them to not delay.

A reminder that, effective from 1 July this year, there are changes to the National Immunisation Schedule.

Key changes include: 1) reducing the pneumococcal vaccination schedule from a four- to a three-dose schedule (two doses as an infant and a booster dose in the second year of life) and 2) replacing ADT with the pertussis-containing Tdap for adult booster doses.

Vaccine	From 1 July 2020
Pneumococcal	Eligibility criteria will be amended from a four-dose schedule to a three-dose schedule to be administered at 6 weeks, 5 months and 15 months.
Varicella vaccine	Eligibility will be changed to infants from 12 months of age. For infants between 9 and 12 months of age at high risk, an alternative vaccine would be available through DHB hospitals.
Diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis vaccine	Tdap (Boostrix) vaccine will replace the adult diphtheria and tetanus vaccine (ADT Booster). Eligibility criteria will be amended to restrict the tetanus booster at age 45 to individuals who have not received four tetanus vaccinations in their lifetime.

¹ [WHO-2019-nCoV-immunization_services-2020.1-eng.pdf](#)

² Suk et al. Post-Ebola Measles Outbreak in Lola, Guinea, January–June 2015. *Emerging Infectious Diseases*. 2016; 22(6):1106-1108.

Influenza vaccine for healthcare workers



As a [healthcare worker](#), you are more likely to be exposed to influenza viruses, and therefore, at greater risk of becoming infected. The WHO strongly recommends healthcare workers as a priority group for influenza vaccination, not only for their own protection but also to reduce the spread of influenza to their vulnerable patients. You can transmit influenza without knowing you are infected. Your influenza vaccination may be free—speak to the manager of your service.

Resources for health professionals, such as the flu kit ([Everything you need to know about flu](#)) can be found on the on the [influenza.org.nz](#) website. The public can find information on [fightflu.co.nz](#)

Provisional authorisation for vaccinators

Given the importance of maintaining immunisation services, and in anticipation of a future COVID-19 vaccine and a measles catch-up programme later this year and the need for an increased vaccinator workforce, a pathway to provisional authorisation has been developed. The *Provisional Vaccinator Training Course* (PVTC) is the main component of this pathway. Well Child Tamariki Ora nurses are eligible to complete the PVTC. The course is free and available online on the IMAC website ([immune.org.nz](#)). Completing the PVTC, assessment and peer review will enable you to administer influenza and MMR vaccines to children from age 3 years, adolescents and adults. In the future, any potential COVID-19 vaccine could be added to this authorisation.

The steps to obtain provisional authorisation are as follows:

1. Request access to the PVTC (see the education and training page on [immune.org.nz](#))
2. Complete:
 - a. 4 hours online learning
 - b. 1 hour webinar tutorial
 - c. an online assessment (40 multichoice questions)
 - d. a peer assessment of your clinical skills
3. Apply for provisional authorisation (you will need to have a current or expired CPR certification, minimum level 3).
4. If you are not currently certified at CPR Level 4, book to do a CPR course, CORE Immediate or equivalent.



For further information, see the *Answers to questions about provisional vaccinator training and authorisation* document under “Written Resources” on the front page of the IMAC website. Other free courses include the *2020 An Introduction to Immunisation*.

Well Child Tamariki Ora services during the COVID-19 pandemic

The Ministry of Health website provides specific guidance around WCTO services, for [providers](#) and for [parents](#), as well as advice for [all health professionals](#). This guidance is tailored to Alert Level and will be of particular interest as we prepare to move to Alert Level 2.

World Smokefree Day 31 May 2020

The objective of World Smokefree Day (WSD) New Zealand this year is raising awareness of and contributing to the achievement of the Smokefree 2025 goal. WSD is a great opportunity to revisit conversations with families about creating a smokefree environment and supporting people who smoke to quit. For resources go to smokefree.org.nz for smokefree videos and other resources, [HealthEd](#) (search 'smokefree'), and see [Quitline](#) for information aimed at 'helping others.'



Other useful resources during the pandemic

- The Office of the Children's Commissioner includes an FAQs page specific to COVID-19 and Alert Levels (eg, at Level 3, can children in shared custody go between households). See occ.org.nz/childrens-rights-and-advice/faqs-covid-19-alert-level-3/
- The Ministry of Social Development provide a useful summary of services and support on their website: msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/newsroom/2020/covid-19/where-to-go-for-services-and-support.html
- For a list of foodbanks around New Zealand, go to: foodbank.co.nz/foodbanks
- See the Work and Income website for how they offer help: workandincome.govt.nz/covid-19/index.html or www.workandincome.govt.nz/eligibility/urgent-costs/index.html
- Scroll to the interactive map of services offered by the Salvation Army: salvationarmy.org.nz/
- And for families/whānau not sure what assistance may be available or don't know who to contact for help, call the free government helpline on [0800 779 997](tel:0800779997) (8am to 10pm, 7 days a week).

Well Child Tamariki Ora Symposiums and Conference

Our symposiums are deferred until further notice but you can still access content from our previous symposiums. [Click here to access slides content from previous symposia.](#)

We are continuing to plan our Well Child Conference in Rotorua (pre-Conference Workshop, 15 October and Conference, 16 October).



Upcoming and recent events

- International Midwives' Day: 5 May 2020
- International Nurses Day: 12 May 2020
- International Day of Families: 15 May 2020
- World Smokefree Day: 31 May 2020
- Matariki: 13–20 July 2020
- World Breastfeeding Week: 1–7 August 2020

Website address: www.wellchild.org.nz

Remaining newsletter mail-out dates for 2020: 10 Aug; 9 Nov



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