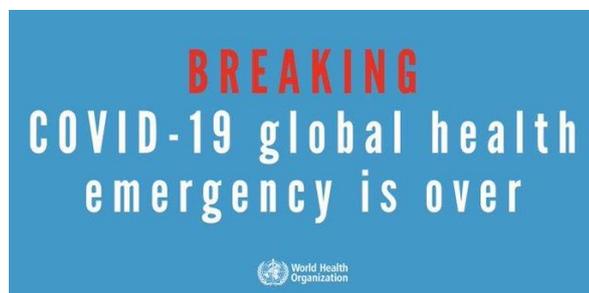


## Waikato Public Health Bulletin

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

### COVID-19 update & reminders

The World Health Organization has declared that COVID-19 is no longer a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) after the 15th meeting of the International Health Regulations (2005) Emergency Committee regarding the COVID-19 pandemic was held on 4 May 2023.



Globally as of 31 May, there have been 767,364,883 confirmed cases of COVID-19 including 6,938,353 deaths reported to the [World Health Organization](#).

As of 29 May, there have been a total of 2,375,191 confirmed cases reported in Aotearoa New Zealand, including a total of 2,942 deaths (about 50 deaths per week). In the Waikato region, there have been approximately 1,300 new cases in the last week from a total of 188,160 confirmed cases reported, including a total of 278 deaths. Information about confirmed and probable cases of COVID-19 in New Zealand can be found [here](#).

**Please bear in mind that COVID-19 still remains a notifiable disease.** With the temperatures dropping, it is important to remain vigilant with COVID-19 as it continues to affect our communities. Please continue to

encourage everyone to get their bivalent COVID-19 booster and influenza vaccines. Immunisation may not stop people from getting COVID-19 and the flu but it will provide more protection and ensure people have best defence against them. Please assist your patients to check up on the immunisation statuses of themselves, their tamariki and whaanau.

**Reminder that notifications do not need to come via GP practices using the BPAC form.** Notifications are automatically generated when people record their rapid antigen test (RAT) results online via My Covid Record or PCR results are processed by laboratories. Please remind patients to report the results of their RAT – regardless of a positive or negative result. This can be done online or by calling the helpline – Call 0800 222 478 (choose option 3). Results can also be reported on another person's behalf via the same channels.

### Measles & MMR vaccine

Two cases of measles were identified in Taamaki Makaurau Auckland in early May. Albany Senior High School moved to online learning while contact tracing took place. Swift action from public health teams helped contain spread and prevent an outbreak.

Measles is a highly contagious viral disease that can be life threatening. In 2017, Aotearoa New Zealand was verified by the World Health Organization as having eliminated endemic measles. However, measles is often imported into our country following international travel. We continue to be at high risk of a measles outbreak due to low immunisation rates and therefore insufficient levels of immunity across the population to prevent community transmission.

We need at least 95% of people living in New Zealand to be immunised to prevent an outbreak of measles. Importantly this would also protect peepi too young to be vaccinated, and those who are severely immunocompromised.

On average, one dose is 95% effective against measles, and two doses is more than 99% effective. The second MMR dose is not a booster – it is given to increase vaccine efficacy and address primary vaccine failure. This occurs in 5% of recipients of the first dose who do not stimulate an immune response and lack protective immunity despite vaccination.

Measles is easily preventable with immunisation. The measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine is free to those born on/after 1 January 1969. It is safe for people to have the MMR vaccine again if they are unsure whether they've had it before. Check out the new [MMR tool](#), which helps people find out if they or their whaanau member need a MMR vaccine. For more information visit the [immunise website](#).

## International Day - Midwife, Nurses and General Practitioners

### 5 May – International Day of the Midwife

Thank you to our midwives for supporting hapuu maamaa and their whaanau throughout their entire pregnancy and birthing journey and for all your mahi and contribution to maternal and newborn health.

### 12 May – International Nurses Day

We would like to take this opportunity to recognise and express our thanks to our various nursing teams working in the public health and community space. Thank you for your mahi and the expertise that each and every one of you bring!

### 19 May – World Family Doctor Day

Celebrating our specialist General

Practitioners and acknowledging the crucial role the primary care workforce has in promoting the health and wellbeing of communities and whaanau. Thank you to our General Practitioners for your contribution to healthcare in Aotearoa New Zealand.

## Smokefree May

**WE'RE  
BACKING  
YOU**  
WORLD SMOKEFREE MAY

World Smokefree May leads up to the celebration of World Smokefree Day on 31st May. Smoking remains a leading cause of preventable death and disease in New Zealand. This is a great time to revisit [Smokefree Aotearoa 2025](#) and see what we are doing together to support people to quit and prevent young people from starting.



Do your part to make Smokefree 2025 a reality - become informed about the [health effects](#) of smoking and our [smoking rates](#). Know what [support services](#) are available to help people stop smoking. Resources and free quit coaches are available through [QuitStrong](#) to help increase the chances of quitting. Learn about [vaping](#) and how it can help some people to quit smoking.

## Aotearoa Immunisation Week - 29 May - 4 June

The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in childhood immunisation rates to plummet around the world. This is evident in our rapid decline of childhood immunisation rates in Aotearoa. Immunisations are important in safeguarding the health of our communities

There are pop-up vaccination sites across the motu this week – it is a great opportunity to boost whaanau immunity this winter, check and catch up on vaccinations. Information sessions, flu and COVID-19 vaccines are offered as well as MMR and childhood immunisations (Well Child) for tamariki. Te Whatu Ora Waikato are hosting a series of events and clinics throughout the region – visit their [webpage](#) for details on dates and location. Learn more about Aotearoa Immunisation Week [here](#). You can also find out which immunisations are due when [here](#).



## Move Your Butt June challenge



June is bowel cancer awareness month – bowel cancer is the second highest cause of cancer death in Aotearoa. It can affect anyone at any age. Kick the couch this month and set a challenge, get a team together, get sponsored, get moving and raise funds for bowel cancer! All funds raised go towards patient support services, research and bowel cancer awareness. Join the official challenge [online](#).

## Te Wiki Hauora Taane 12-18<sup>th</sup> June

Men's Health Week (MHW) is a global health awareness campaign that focuses on the health issues all men face and aims to raise awareness of small steps Kiwi men can take to make big differences to their health.



*\*Numbers are way worse for Maori and Pacific men.*

**Take the test and get your score at  
[menshealthweek.co.nz](https://menshealthweek.co.nz)**



**Mens Health Week  
13-19 June, 2022**



Take the test here

A short and simple ['What's Your Score?'](#) health survey has been designed to help start

conversations with primary health care providers and help taane get back on track. MHW have monthly [podcast](#) episodes that consist of health discussions with leading experts. Check out their [website](#) for more health information and quizzes.

## Staff news

We warmly welcome Harris Rashid who has joined the Health Improvement team at Public Health Service as a Senior Health Improvement Advisor. Haere mai!



### **Medical Officers of Health:**

Dr Felicity Dumble, Dr Richard Wall, Dr Richard Vipond, and Dr 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. 22041 or 22020

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

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

**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 (period to May 2023)

Notifiable diseases (Waikato District) - period to: May 2023

\*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	•	0.1	0.2	50
Campylobacteriosis	50	25	▼	52.6	522.9	10
COVID-19	3,262	4,004	▲	8,437.4	112,755.4	7
Cryptosporidiosis	2	0	▼	6.9	55.9	12
Decompression sickness	0	0	•	0.0	0.2	0
Dengue fever	0	0	•	0.0	2.7	0
Diphtheria	0	0	•	0.0	0.3	0
Gastroenteritis - unknown cause	2	1	▼	1.0	17.3	6
Gastroenteritis / foodborne intoxication	7	9	▲	5.3	14.9	36
Giardiasis	16	7	▼	8.0	68.7	12
Haemophilus influenzae type b	0	1	▲	0.1	0.3	33
Hepatitis A	0	0	•	0.3	5.8	5
Hepatitis B	0	1	▲	0.1	1.2	8
Hepatitis C	0	0	•	0.0	2.6	0
Hepatitis NOS	0	1	▲	0.1	0.4	25
Hydatid disease	0	0	•	0.0	0.3	0
Invasive pneumococcal disease	3	8	▲	6.3	58.0	11
Latent tuberculosis infection	1	1	•	0.8	7.1	11
Lead Poisoning	0	0	•	0.0	0.0	-
Legionellosis	1	1	•	1.2	21.6	6
Leprosy	0	0	•	0.1	0.3	33
Leptospirosis	7	6	▼	2.6	14.4	18
Listeriosis	0	0	•	0.3	3.1	10
Listeriosis - perinatal	0	0	•	0.0	0.5	0
Malaria	0	0	•	0.2	2.5	8
Measles	0	0	•	0.0	0.1	0
Meningococcal disease	0	0	•	0.3	6.3	5
Mumps	0	0	•	0.0	0.3	0
Murine Typhus	0	0	•	0.2	0.4	50
Pertussis	1	0	▼	0.4	3.4	12
Q fever	0	0	•	0.0	0.0	-
Rheumatic fever - initial attack	2	1	▼	0.9	8.4	11
Rheumatic fever - recurrent attack	0	0	•	0.2	0.6	33
Salmonellosis	6	3	▼	6.5	68.8	9
Shigellosis	0	0	•	0.3	7.8	4
Taeniasis	0	0	•	0.0	0.2	0
Tetanus	0	0	•	0.0	0.1	0
Tuberculosis disease - new case	4	2	▼	2.4	23.2	10
Tuberculosis disease - relapse or reactivation	0	0	•	0.0	0.8	0
Tuberculosis infection - on preventive treatment	0	0	•	0.0	0.1	0
Typhoid fever	1	1	•	0.6	6.1	10
VTEC/STEC infection	6	4	▼	7.9	82.8	10
Yersiniosis	16	4	▼	8.6	117.5	7

## Notifiable diseases – Trends (period to June 2023)

Notifiable diseases (Waikato District) - period to: June 2023

\*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	•	0.1	0.2	50
Campylobacteriosis	25	33	▲	52.9	529.5	10
COVID-19	4,004	5,026	▲	7,530.5	98,847.0	8
Cryptosporidiosis	0	9	▲	6.9	57.3	12
Decompression sickness	0	0	•	0.0	0.2	0
Dengue fever	0	0	•	0.0	2.8	0
Diphtheria	0	0	•	0.0	0.3	0
Gastroenteritis - unknown cause	1	3	▲	1.2	18.8	6
Gastroenteritis / foodborne intoxication	9	9	•	5.8	15.3	38
Giardiasis	7	16	▲	8.8	71.9	12
Haemophilus influenzae type b	1	0	▼	0.1	0.4	25
Hepatitis A	0	1	▲	0.4	6.1	7
Hepatitis B	1	0	▼	0.1	1.3	8
Hepatitis C	0	0	•	0.0	3.0	0
Hepatitis NOS	1	0	▼	0.1	0.4	25
Hydatid disease	0	0	•	0.0	0.3	0
Invasive pneumococcal disease	8	1	▼	5.9	58.0	10
Latent tuberculosis infection	1	1	•	0.8	7.3	11
Lead Poisoning	0	0	•	0.0	0.0	-
Legionellosis	1	2	▲	1.3	21.9	6
Leprosy	0	1	▲	0.2	0.5	40
Leptospirosis	6	2	▼	2.7	15.1	18
Listeriosis	0	1	▲	0.4	3.3	12
Listeriosis - perinatal	0	0	•	0.0	0.5	0
Malaria	0	0	•	0.2	3.0	7
Measles	0	1	▲	0.1	1.3	8
Meningococcal disease	0	1	▲	0.4	6.8	6
Mumps	0	0	•	0.0	0.4	0
Murine Typhus	0	0	•	0.2	0.4	50
Pertussis	0	2	▲	0.5	4.1	12
Q fever	0	0	•	0.0	0.0	-
Rheumatic fever - initial attack	1	2	▲	0.9	9.4	10
Rheumatic fever - recurrent attack	0	0	•	0.2	0.8	25
Salmonellosis	3	3	•	6.4	70.1	9
Shigellosis	0	1	▲	0.4	9.0	4
Taeniasis	0	0	•	0.0	0.2	0
Tetanus	0	0	•	0.0	0.1	0
Tuberculosis disease - new case	2	3	▲	2.7	24.2	11
Tuberculosis disease - relapse or reactivation	0	0	•	0.0	0.8	0
Tuberculosis infection - on preventive treatment	0	0	•	0.0	0.1	0
Typhoid fever	1	1	•	0.7	6.3	11
VTEC/STEC infection	4	10	▲	7.8	83.9	9
Yersiniosis	4	9	▲	8.8	120.2	7