



P O Box 647, Nelson

Ph (03) 546 1537 Fax (03) 546 1542

P O Box 46, Blenheim

Ph (03) 520 9914 Fax (03) 578 9517

5th February 2018

TO: Staff, Parents and Caregivers of Children Nelson Marlborough Pre-Schools and Schools

PERTUSSIS (WHOOPING COUGH), MUMPS and MEASLES PREVENTION

Pertussis (Whooping Cough)

- Currently this Region is experiencing an outbreak of pertussis, which is expected to continue for some months.

Mumps

- We did not see any confirmed cases of mumps in the Region for the three years 2014 to 2016
- However, we have seen confirmed cases in cases in our Region 2017, and further cases in 2018 including a local outbreak.

Measles

- Fortunately, this Region has not been involved in an outbreak since 2016.
- However, we are concerned that the proportion of our population immunised is below 95%, therefore we are at risk of further outbreaks.

Immunisation

- All the above contagious diseases can cause severe illness, and on occasions can be fatal.
- We have seen a very good proportion of children immunised for many vaccines
- The start of the school year is a good time to check your children's immunisations are up to date, and where appropriate your own too.
- If you are unsure whether your children are covered please contact your family doctor or practice nurse.
- A small proportion of parents may have made a conscious decision to decline immunisation for their children, and may wish to re-consider the evidence on the issue.
- Please note that pregnant women are eligible for free pertussis immunisation which will protect their new baby in the first weeks of its life before she/he is able to have their first immunisation.
- Please also note adults born in 1969 or later can get the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) for free.

Further Information – local and national

Some further information can be found on the attached web links;

- <https://www.nmdhb.govt.nz/nmdhb-news-and-notice/whooping-cough-school-children-at-risk-if-not-immunised/>
- <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/preventative-health-wellness/immunisation/new-zealand-immunisation-schedule>
- <https://www.health.govt.nz/your-health/healthy-living/immunisation/immunisation-pregnant-women>
- <https://www.health.govt.nz/your-health/conditions-and-treatments/diseases-and-illnesses/measles>

Thank you for reading this advisory letter.

If you have any queries please contact your family doctor or practice nurse, or phone Public Health on 📞 (03) 546 1537 (Nelson), 0800 HEALTHLINE (0800 611 116) or 0800 IMMUNE (0800 466 863).

Yours sincerely

Dr Stephen Bridgman
Clinical Director of Public Health