Wairarapa DHB
Wairarapa District Health Board
Te Poari Hauora a-rohe o Wairarapa

19 October 2021

[redacted]

Official information request W21-650 Immunisations for Maori and Pacific Children

I refer to your official information request dated 03 September which was transferred to the Ministry on 23 September, and then subsequently transferred back to the DHB's on 01 October 2021.

Request:

1. **Data showing immunisation rates for children at eight months of age, broken down by ethnic group, for each month in the past three years. Please provide this in a CSV or Excel spreadsheet format if possible.**
2. **Analysis or advice created in 2021 that examines possible reasons for a decline in vaccination rates among Māori and/or Pacific children.**
3. **Analysis or advice created in 2021 that examines vaccine hesitancy, including in relation to the Covid-19 vaccines.**
4. **High-level correspondence in 2021 with senior executives from other DHBs in relation to increasing childhood immunisations or addressing the decline in vaccination of Māori and/or Pacific children.**
5. **High-level correspondence in 2021 between the DHB and Ministry of Health relating to increasing childhood immunisations or addressing the decline in vaccination of Māori and/or Pacific children.**
6. **Data showing the number of staff involved in childhood vaccinations for each month in 2021.**
7. **Data showing the number of staff who were moved from childhood vaccinations to the Covid-19 response at any time in 2021.**
8. **Details of any recovery or action plan created in 2021 to improve the rates of childhood immunisation and reduce decline rates for Māori and/or Pacific children.**

Response

1. **Data showing immunisation rates for children at eight months of age, broken down by ethnic group, for each month in the past three years. Please provide this in a CSV or Excel spreadsheet format if possible.**

	Total			NZE			Māori			Pacific			Asian		
	# Eligible	# Fully immunised	% Fully immunised	# Eligible	# Fully immunised	% Fully immunised	# Eligible	# Fully immunised	% Fully immunised	# Eligible	# Fully immunised	% Fully immunised	# Eligible	# Fully immunised	% Fully immunised
Apr-June 2021	127	110	86.6%	66	62	93.9%	50	39	78.0%	2	1	50.0%	6	6	100.0%
Jan- Mar 2021	145	130	89.7%	86	78	90.7%	44	39	88.6%	5	4	80.0%	10	9	90.0%
Oct-Dec 2020	139	125	89.9%	79	71	89.9%	46	46	89.1%	3	3	100.0%	6	6	100.0%
July-Sept 2020	118	112	94.9%	57	57	100.0%	44	39	88.6%	3	2	66.7%	7	7	100.0%
Apr-June 2020	152	135	88.8%	89	80	89.9%	50	43	86.0%	2	2	100.0%	4	4	100.0%
Jan- Mar 2020	138	129	93.5%	73	67	91.8%	52	50	96.2%			66.7%			100.0%
Oct-Dec 2019	126	119	94.4%	58	56	96.6%	47	45	95.7%	8	8	100.0%	4	4	100.0%
July-Sept 2019	132	122	92.4%	67	60	89.6%	48	47	97.9%	3	3	100.0%	7	6	85.7%
Apr-June 2019	127	116	91.3%	63	59	93.7%	44	38	86.4%	4	4	100.0%	5	5	100.0%
Jan- Mar 2019	128	120	93.8%	65	61	93.8%	44	42	95.5%	5	4	80.0%	8	8	100.0%
Oct-Dec 2018	130	119	91.5%	66	61	92.4%	49	47	95.9%	2	1	50.0%	4	3	75.0%
July-Sept 2018	155	141	91.0%	90	78	86.7%	48	46	95.8%	8	8	100.0%	7	7	100.0%

2. **Analysis or advice created in 2021 that examines possible reasons for a decline in vaccination rates among Māori and/or Pacific children.**

Reasons for people refusing or delaying vaccines are complex and vary considerably. The Immunisation Advisory Centre have recently received a grant from the Ministry of Health to develop a new tool to gauge why some New Zealanders chose to decline or delay immunisation. This tool will aid healthcare professionals to identify reasons for declining and delaying immunisation, and to target interventions to increase immunisation rates for Pasifika consistently remain high in the Wairarapa. Whilst there has been a decrease for immunisation coverage for Maori, the PHO has multiple steps in place to ensure these children are identified and followed up for immunisation in a timely manner. Nurses working within primary care whom deliver the National Immunisation Schedule ensure that parents receive evidenced based information to allow them to make an informed decision regarding immunisation. Ultimately, it is the choice of the parent/guardian if they wish to consent to immunisation, and we respect their decision as health professionals, whilst also ensuring that the door remains open for further discussion and support if required.

Vaccination uptake is reported through the DHB's Community and Public Health Advisory Committee. The reports are available publicly on the Wairarapa DHB's website http://www.wairarapa.dhb.org.nz/about-us/boards-and-governance/meeting-times-papers/

3. **Analysis or advice created in 2021 that examines vaccine hesitancy, including in relation to the Covid-19 vaccines.** This is lead nationally
4. **High-level correspondence in 2021 with senior executives from other DHBs in relation to increasing childhood immunisations or addressing the decline in vaccination of Māori and/or Pacific children.** Nil
5. **High-level correspondence in 2021 between the DHB and Ministry of Health relating to increasing childhood immunisations or addressing the decline in vaccination of Māori and/or Pacific children.**

PDF

W21-650 MoH letter to WrDHB CEC

6. **Data showing the number of staff involved in childhood vaccinations for each month in 2021.** Number of staff is a broad question as all health professionals, support staff and admin staff promote and support childhood immunisations to some degree. ie midwives, inpatient services etc. If you are talking about vaccinators then general practices across the Wairarapa have 55 vaccinators. The PHO has 4 staff working in immunisation services. The DHB funds Whaiora (Maori Health Provider) to provide

outreach services with a nurse and a support worker. So we could say 61 if you need a figure and this is consistent across the months of the year.

7. **Data showing the number of staff who were moved from childhood vaccinations to the Covid-19 response at any time in 2021.**
   The Covid-19 Vaccination programme has been rolled out by the DHB within the Wairarapa, and we have developed specific Covid vaccinating teams to deliver this programme. Therefore, the Covid-19 vaccination programme has not had an impact on availability of primary care vaccinators delivering the National Childhood Schedule. Recently two medical centres within the Wairarapa have supported delivery of the Covid-19 vaccine within the Tekau Ma Iwa clinic. Staffing levels for this clinic have been over and above the normal FTE rostering, so have not impacted business as usual for the providers involved

8. **Details of any recovery or action plan created in 2021 to improve the rates of childhood immunisation and reduce decline rates for Māori and/or Pacific children.**

W21-650 WrDHB
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From Wairarapa DHB's Annual Plan 2020/21 – available on the DHB's website
http://www.wairarapa.dhb.org.nz/news-and-publications/reports-and-publications/annual-plan/

Immunisation	
Action(s) (include one action and milestone per row)	**Milestone(s)**
Increase the number of children in vulnerable families vaccinated through the Outreach Immunisation Service (OIS) 1. Continue to support and promote early referral pathways to Outreach Immunisation Service (OIS). 2. Six monthly stakeholder hui to facilitate improved referral volumes.	Q2 Q4; Status report
Maintain immunisation coverage during the COVID-19 immunisation programme 3. Continue to keep the focus of OIS on childhood immunisations. 4. Support primary care providers to focus on prioritising immunisation service delivery.	Q2 Q4; Status report
Develop and implement a comprehensive immunisation engagement and communications plan in collaboration with Māori, Pasifika and consumer voices in the community with a focus on reaching priority populations which will include; 5. Making planned contact with key Māori and Pasifika partners within the region to harness their influence to ensure that positive, consistent and culturally appropriate messaging is delivered consistently across the region. 6. Delivering a programme of immunisation education sessions in various settings including marae, schools, Te Kōhanga, early childhood centres and at community events.	Q2 Q4; Status report
Māori Led Influenza Immunisation Programme 7. Partner with Māori Women's Welfare League (MWWL) to support promotion of Māori influenza immunisation rates.	Q2 Q4; Status report
Improve childhood immunisation coverage from infancy to age 5 with a focus on increased immunisation at 2 years 8. Partner with MWWL to enable a Maori-led approach to improving immunisation, focussing on innovative approaches, building of networks and improving equitable immunisation coverage for Māori populations 9. Strengthen the coordination of immunisation services and refresh membership, terms of reference and action plan of the Wairarapa Immunisation Advisory Group. 10. Support the development of the PHO Child Health Coordinator role. Contributory measures include newborn enrolment and children aged 2 years are fully immunised	Q1 Wairarapa Immunisation Group hui Q2 Q3 Q4 Status report

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the Wairarapa District Health Board website no less than one week after the response has been provided to you. Any personal

or identifying information will be redacted from any response published online. The DHB will endeavour to resolve any concerns you should raise but, subject to any legal grounds for withholding, ultimately reserves the right to publish any information.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact:

OIA Coordinator
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Ph: 06 946 9800

Yours sincerely

Dale Oliff
Chief Executive