

2 April 2019



Dear 

Official information request W19-322

I refer to your official information request dated 5 March 2019.

Request:

This is an Official Information Act request for data on vaccination coverage and vaccination decline in your DHB area for the past four years (2015-2018) and so far this year (2019).

I request this information in as much detail as possible e.g. broken down by location (town, area) within the DHB and by age, gender and vaccine.

I also request any copies of reports, initiatives, discussion papers, advice, plans or policies created or received by your DHB around vaccination rates (for example: plans for how to address declines in rates, discussion of any communities that are hotspots for anti-vaxxers, etc.) This includes complaints or alerts of any active anti-vaccination communities or individuals.

Response:

The first parts of your request was transferred to the Ministry of Health on 22 March 2019. Wairarapa DHB is responding to the last paragraph.

Wairarapa DHB works with Tū Ora Compass Health (our local PHO) on immunisation co-ordination and maintenance of the National Immunisation Register. This service has undertaken the following activities:

- Regular monitoring of the decline rate.
- Ensuring that registered nurses and those involved in child health have sufficient knowledge and information on immunisation.
- In 2018, the Regional Adviser, Immunisation Advisory Centre (IMAC) held a session on difficult communication in immunisation - the best approach with parents whom have concerns regarding immunisation. This session was attended by practice nurses, public health nurses and Tamariki Ora nurses based within the Wairarapa. This is also repeated every year at the Immunisation Update held in the Wairarapa and attended by authorised vaccinators.
- Regular monitoring of 'not fully immunised' and decline rates with reminders for providers.

- The Wairarapa Immunisation co-ordinator works closely with the midwife educator to offer any update sessions or information to enable midwives to confidently discuss immunisation with their patients.
- Immunisation information packs are included in the maternity packs that the DHB distributes to all medical centres and gives to new mothers.
- The co-ordinator has met with Plunket staff to keep them up to date.
- In 2018 the co-ordinator held an immunisation session for expectant and new mothers at the Teen Parent Unit.
- Each year positive immunisation information is placed in the local newspaper and the free circulating papers within the Wairarapa.
- We hold an Immunisation Working Party meeting every two months, which is attended by a representative of all immunisation providers within the Wairarapa. At these meetings we discuss current issues, including our vaccine hesitant families and decline rates, and reminders on how best to approach and manage these.
- Overdue reports made available to medical centres fortnightly, these prompt the practices to follow up on specific children whom are not yet fully immunised.
- NIR is notified of all new births within the Wairarapa, and each new family is sent a congratulations card, which encourages them to engage with their medical centre to book their infants immunisation events. The infants name, and medical centre name and contact number are all handwritten into the card. This includes information on each of the vaccine events.

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:

Caroline van Deventer, Communications Administrator

Email: caroline.vanDeventer@wairarapa.dhb.org.nz, Ph: 06 946 9800, ext 5840

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anna Cardno', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Anna Cardno

Communications Manager