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To:	Primary Care Teams, Health Professionals	
From:	Kath Blair, Manager, Immunisation	
Subject:	Campaign to improve measles immunity, Timely childhood immunisation, Influenza, Pneumovax23, National Immunisation Schedule Change 1 July 2020	



Campaign to improve measles immunity in 15 to 30-year olds starts soon

To reduce the risk of future measles outbreaks, a year-long, DHB-led immunisation campaign will be launched later this month. The campaign targets 15 to 30-year olds who missed their MMR vaccine as children, particularly Māori and Pacific young people.

Regional campaigns will roll out from late July and August 2020 until August 2021

DHBs are developing innovative outreach approaches to deliver the free MMR vaccinations through community settings as well as general practices. More information about the planned activity in your area will come from your DHB.

Extra demand and vaccine supply

We anticipate General Practice will see an increase in demand for MMR as regional campaigns progress. An extra 350,000 doses of MMR vaccine have been brought into New Zealand to support the campaign, in addition to the amount usually available for scheduled immunisations.

Please take every opportunity to offer MMR vaccinations to those aged 15 to 30 who have not previously been vaccinated, as well as those aged under 15 years who have not received two doses of MMR. While the campaign is not focused on those aged over 30, patients in this age group may request vaccination. Please continue to immunise anyone born in 1969 or later on request if they haven't previously been vaccinated against measles, or don't know whether or not they have been vaccinated.

People may also ask for their immunisation records. Please get in touch with your PHO if you have questions about getting this information from your system. If in doubt, there are no additional safety issues in having a third dose of MMR.

MMR in pharmacies

Pharmacist vaccinators, and pharmacists who have done their Provisional Vaccinator Training Course, can administer MMR vaccines to people 16 and over if they have a contract with their DHB to do this. Information about the training course is online at <https://www.immune.org.nz/health-professionals/education-training>.

The MMR vaccine is listed in the Pharmaceutical Schedule and can be ordered through ProPharma. Pharmacists can claim the cost of the vaccine and an administration fee the same way they do for other funded vaccinations. Please make sure you enter all vaccinations on the NIR through ImmuniseNow.

Thanks to all providers for supporting the campaign and your continued efforts recalling children whose scheduled immunisations are overdue. It's vital we continue to prioritise core public health functions like immunisation.

Timely childhood immunisation

The Ministry is currently promoting timely childhood immunisation, in the expectation that parents may have delayed vaccination during Level 4. Please keep a close eye on your

childhood immunisation rates over the coming months to ensure that any delayed vaccinations are caught up. Resources for the campaign are available at

<https://hpa.org.nz/campaign/protect-your-wh%C4%81nau-%E2%80%93-immunise-on-time>

Please do not defer immunisations where children or their family members have mild cold symptoms.

Influenza

As we are now well into winter and with a lot more social mixing occurring, we need to be prepared for influenza. Good stocks are available of both Afluria Quad (for funded patients) and Influvac Tetra Saison 2019/20 (for unfunded patients), and practices are encouraged to continue their work to vaccinate their most vulnerable people, particularly newly pregnant women who may not have been eligible for free vaccination earlier this year.

Pneumovax23 (pneumococcal vaccine)

There is currently a limited supply of the Pneumovax23 vaccine available until new supply arrives in early August 2020. Please consider if vaccination can be briefly delayed. ProPharma branches may have localised shortages while new stock is distributed. The vaccine supplier is supplying additional vaccine to New Zealand in response to the increased demand in 2020.

REMINDER: 1 July 2020 Schedule Change

From 1 July, the PCV10 vaccine regimen and a number of vaccine brands in the National Immunisation Schedule changed.

PCV10

PCV10 is no longer given at age 3 months. PCV10 vaccine is now a 2+1 (two primary doses with booster) primary series. The other 3 month vaccines (hexavalent and rotavirus) continue to be given at this age.

From 1 July 2020, children who have not yet had their 6 week or 3 month immunisations are now on the 2+1 series (6 weeks, 5 months plus booster dose) for PCV10. The booster dose continues to be given at 15 months until 1 October, when it will move to 12 months.

PCV13

The special groups pneumococcal 13 (PCV13) vaccine will continue to be given at 6 weeks, 3 months, 5 months with the booster at 15 months. As above, the booster dose continues to be given at 15 months until 1 October, when it will move to 12 months.

Brand changes

- There will be brand changes for the varicella vaccine and hepatitis B vaccines, and Tdap will replace Td vaccine.
- Meningococcal C will only be available for high risk children younger than 9 months.
- High risk children 9 months and older are eligible for MenACWY.

Please continue to order and use the current brands until all stock is used, then the new brands will be distributed.

PMS updates

Please ensure your PMS have been updated with the latest provider release so that the July Immunisation schedule changes are reflected in your system.

If you have any queries about anything in this update, please email immunisation@health.govt.nz