



Toi Te Ora – Public Health Service is committed to improving and protecting the health of the communities in the Bay of Plenty and Lakes districts.

Position Statement – Immunisation*

Immunisation is a highly effective means of preventing a number of infectious diseases and some cancers.

Toi Te Ora – Public Health Service recommends that all children and adults are immunised according to the National Immunisation Schedule.

Immunisation is a highly effective way to reduce the transmission of a number of infectious diseases, as well as prevent some cancers, at both individual and population levels.

Inequalities in immunisation rates between population groups potentially contribute to disparities in health outcomes.

The National Immunisation Schedule sets out the publicly funded vaccines and the ages at which vaccines are to be administered. The Schedule is supplemented by a selection of vaccines which may be administered in certain clinical situations. The data on safety, effectiveness, and clinical contraindications for each of the approved vaccines is detailed in the Ministry of Health *Immunisation Handbook 2011*.

Toi Te Ora – Public Health Service advocates and supports the following:

- Promoting the immunisation of children and adults according to the National Immunisation Schedule
- The influential role of health professionals in providing accurate and evidence-based information on immunisation
- Achieving immunisation coverage rates for Maori, Pacific and other population groups at the same or better coverage rate as for the New Zealand European population

References and further information

Immunisation Advisory Centre (IMAC): www.immune.org.

Ministry of Health (2011). *Immunisation Handbook 2011*. Wellington: Ministry of Health.

Ministry of Health website: www.moh.govt.nz/immunisation.

WHO, UNICEF, World Bank (2009). *State of the world's vaccines and immunisation*, 3rd ed. Geneva: World Health Organisation.

*This statement aligns with the Bay of Plenty District Health Board's statement and provides the public health perspective on this issue.

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