

Introduction

Welcome to the first Regional Youth Newsletter. The purpose of this newsletter is to provide an update on the Meningococcal B Youth Vaccination Campaign planned for the Auckland region. Counties Manukau, Auckland and Waitemata District Health Boards are working together as a combined region to deliver this campaign.

Primary care has been able to vaccinate out-of-school youth (up to the age of 20 years) since the initial rollout for preschoolers in Counties Manukau, Waitemata and Auckland districts. The three DHBs are now planning a more proactive approach given that the pre-school campaign is now well under way.

Primary care is encouraged to recall enrolled youth for a start date on 7th March, 2005. Plans are in place for vaccinations to also occur in tertiary institutions, on-site services in employment and correctional facilities from that date.

In summary, vaccinations will be available in:

- Tertiary health centres;
- The workplace (administered by Occupational Health Nurses (OHNs));
- Correctional facilities;
- Youth Training Schemes;
- Apprenticeships;
- Primary Care;
- Alternative Education facilities; *and*
- The defence workforce (within the region).

To ensure that young people are aware of their opportunity to be vaccinated, a comprehensive media, communications and awareness-raising plan will be implemented.

Population Characteristics

Reaching the youth population within the Auckland region is one of the most challenging aspects within the Meningococcal B Vaccination campaign. This is because it is difficult to reach those who have left school and who are not working or in tertiary education.

The projection totals for the 2004 census have been used to estimate youth numbers.

Estimated Auckland Youth Population Summary

Cluster	Volume	%
Tertiary education	14,358	32
Employed	11,037	24
Unemployed	10,509	23
Youth Training Schemes	2,100	5
Alternative Education	500	1
Correctional Facilities	240	0.5
Apprentices	200	0.4
Subtotal	38,944	86
All others	6,262	14
Total	45,206	100

Planning Group

The region has established a planning group with the following terms of reference:

- To raise the awareness of the campaign in young people.

- To ensure that the multiple providers are prepared to participate in vaccinations.
- To support local implementation of activities e.g. primary care.
- To support regional coordination of activities.

The following sections discuss the opportunities for youth to be vaccinated.

Vaccination Sites

Through consultation, the following places have been identified as being suitable youth vaccination sites:

- Health Centres at tertiary education institutes
- Workplaces
- Correctional Institutes
- The Defence Forces
- Primary Care
- Alternative Education Providers
- Youth in Apprenticeships
- CYFS Residential Facilities

Resources

Each organisation will be provided with print resources, which will also be backed up by a comprehensive media campaign.

The Ministry of Health's website (www.moh.govt.nz) and Meningococcal B tollfree number (0800 20 30 90) also provide additional information and support.

Overseas Students

All students under 20 years of age (as of their first vaccination) are eligible for the MeNZB™ vaccination. This includes fee paying students. Overseas students under 16 years of age will need to have a signed consent form from their parents. These forms will need to be faxed so they are back in time for the programme.

Students who will not be in the country long enough to complete the vaccination course should not start the course. Students need to be in New Zealand for at least six months from dose one of the vaccine.

Overseas students require ID, for example a passport, to obtain a NHI number for use on the National Immunisation Register (NIR).

Eligibility criteria for overseas students can be found in the Meningococcal B Immunisation Programme handbook, August 2004, pages 31 to 34. The criteria can also be viewed by logging onto www.immunise.moh.govt.nz and clicking on "Resources for Vaccinators" and then scrolling down to "Programme Guidelines for Health Professionals."

Those vaccinating with MeNZB™ should have been delivered the guidelines as part of the MoH pack.

Tertiary Health Centres

All Tertiary Health Centres in the Auckland region have been approached and are willing to participate in the campaign.

We will be supporting these centres to promote vaccinations through their internal systems, specifically in the Orientation period when new students will be introduced to these services.

Workplace

Many of the "Health in the Workplace" organisations are willing to participate in

the Meningococcal B campaign by administering the vaccine at the same time as influenza vaccinations are given.

We will work with these organisations to ensure the vaccinations run as smoothly as possible and assist with recording data onto the National Immunisation Register.

Correctional Institutes

There are two correctional facilities in Auckland - Mt Eden Prison and Auckland Prison (at Paremoremo). While the youth population in prisons is not large, it is estimated to be around 200.

We will work with prisons to ensure that suitable Meningococcal consent forms are available for inmates. It is standard policy that vaccinations are offered to inmates on the condition that they are to remain within the same facility for the duration of the course of immunisation i.e. an inmate would need to be in the facility long enough to complete the course of the Meningococcal B Immunisation (approximately 18 weeks from dose one of the vaccine).

The Defence Forces

The medical providers within the Defence Forces at both the Devonport Naval base and Whenuapai Air Base will make the vaccine available to their eligible youth populations. This process have already begun.

Primary Care

Vaccinating youth will be an extension to the work that Primary Care organisations are already doing.

We will work with GP practices to devise solutions to where young people should go for their course of vaccine.

Alternative Education Providers

Many alternative education providers are "attached" to mainstream education providers and have participated in the school campaigns with the Public Health Nurses in CMDHB and the EC.

If one of the alternative education providers that has not participated in the school campaign support may be needed to find ways in which to engage young people on school rolls with a primary care provider.

Youth in Apprenticeships

As per our discussions with Company

Health Services (CHS) based in Northland, the campaign will dovetail into yearly medical examinations for apprentices.

Further discussions will be needed to finalise the process.

Residential Facilities

We will work with CYFS to reach those young people staying at their Auckland residential centre.

These young people have an average stay of three months and we will work with CYFS to encourage youth to access the Meningococcal B Vaccine via primary care services.

Support Organisations

The following organisations support the youth campaign:

- WINZ
- Sexual Health Clinics
- Family Planning
- Housing NZ
- Child and Youth Family Services

Further information

For further information about the Meningococcal B Vaccination campaign visit the Ministry of Health Website on www.moh.govt.nz or call 0800 20 30 90.

Contact Us

For any queries please contact:

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