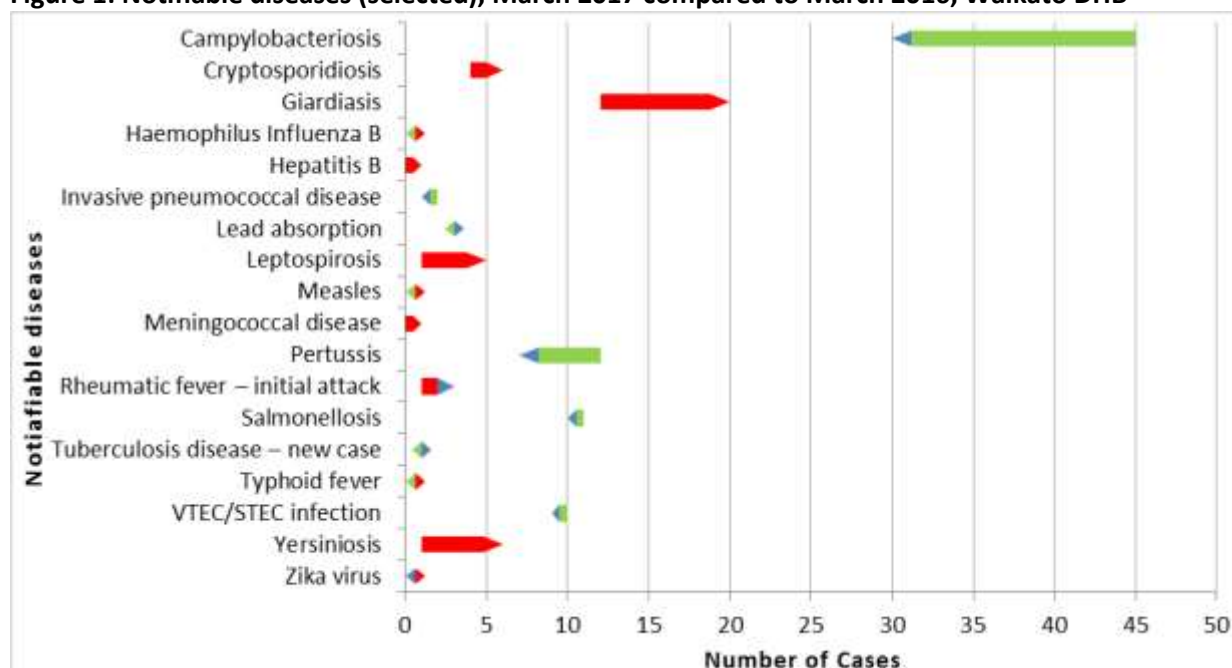


Communicable diseases notified March 2017

Disease name	Mar 2016	Mar 2017	YTD	Disease name	Mar 2016	Mar 2017	YTD
Campylobacteriosis	45	30	137	Mumps	0	2	3
Chikungunya Fever	0	0	0	Murine Typhus	0	0	0
Cryptosporidiosis	4	6	10	Paratyphoid fever	0	0	0
Dengue fever	1	0	1	Pertussis	12	7	18
Gastroenteritis – unknown cause	1	0	1	Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
Giardiasis	12	20	47	Q fever	0	0	0
Haemophilus Influenza B	0	0	0	Rheumatic fever - initial attack	1	3	4
Hepatitis A	0	0	1	Rheumatic fever – recurrent attack	0	1	1
Hepatitis B	0	1	3	Ross River virus infection	0	0	0
Hepatitis C	0	0	0	Salmonellosis	11	10	26
Invasive pneumococcal disease	2	1	9	Shigellosis	0	0	1
Latent Tuberculosis	7	4	11	Tetanus	0	0	0
Lead absorption	3	3	6	Toxic Shellfish Poisoning	0	0	0
Legionellosis	2	0	2	Tuberculosis disease - new case	1	1	2
Leptospirosis	1	5	11	Tuberculosis disease – relapse or reactivation	0	0	0
Listeriosis	1	0	0	Typhoid fever	0	0	1
Listeriosis – Perinatal	0	0	0	VTEC/STEC infection	10	9	15
Malaria	1	0	1	Yersiniosis	1	6	17
Measles	0	0	0	Zika virus	0	0	0
Meningococcal disease	0	1	2				

Figure 1: Notifiable diseases (selected), March 2017 compared to March 2016, Waikato DHB



Influenza Immunisation Programme

The funded influenza vaccine is available from March until 31 December this year for those at greatest risk from influenza (i.e. pregnant women, those 65 years and over and those under 65 with certain medical conditions) and were not vaccinated before or during winter. H3N2 has been prevalent in the northern hemisphere over their winter. If New Zealand follows the same pattern in 2017, our elderly may be more likely to be more severely affected.

- INFLUVAC® is the only funded vaccine available this year.
- You cannot claim for any other brand of influenza vaccine.

Influenza immunisation coverage

Influenza immunisation coverage based on administration fee claims for those aged 65 years and older has remained steady between 67 – 69 percent over the past few years. From 2017/2018, coverage of influenza immunisation for those aged 65 years and over will be a DHB performance measure with a target of 75 percent coverage. All influenza immunisations given (including by pharmacist vaccinators) are recorded on the National Immunisation Register (NIR) so that this measure is accurate and local DHB targets can be achieved. This includes funded and non-funded influenza vaccines administered during the influenza immunisation programme.

SHIVERS research from 2015 suggests that during that winter about a quarter of New Zealand's population tested positive for influenza. However, most of this group (80 percent) were asymptomatic and did not report any illness. This means that a large proportion of the population is capable of spreading influenza without realising that they are ill themselves. Influenza immunisation is therefore important for anyone in contact with those who are more vulnerable.

Expansion of access to the funded influenza vaccine from 1 April 2017

PHARMAC has changed the New Zealand Pharmaceutical Schedule from 1 April 2017 to enable

pharmacist vaccinators to provide funded influenza vaccine to:

- Individuals aged 65 years and over
- Pregnant women

Participating pharmacists have been instructed to ensure that individuals under 65 years with certain medical conditions who are eligible for funded influenza vaccination are advised this is available from their general practice.

Immunisation Week 2017

This year, Immunisation Week will be held from 1-7 May, and will focus on immunisation for older children. The week is a great opportunity to remind parents of older children and teens that their children may need to catch up on Tdap, HPV, MMR or any other childhood vaccines they may have missed. Chickenpox immunisation will be funded at age 15 months from 1 July 2017.

With measles outbreaks underway in Europe and recent mumps cases in Auckland, MMR immunisation for those who missed out as young children in the early 2000s remains important.

Changes to the National Immunisation Schedule

The Ministry's information resources to support the upcoming schedule changes on 1 July 2017 are in production and should be ready to order from HealthEd in May. These include updated Immunisation Schedule cards, posters, booklets and leaflets. The Immunisation Handbook is being revised, and the new 2017 edition will be published online in late May with the printed version being sent to providers in mid to late June.

Acute Rheumatic Fever

There have been a significant number of acute rheumatic fever notifications in the Waikato this summer/autumn. The cases are scattered throughout Hamilton and South Waikato. Please consider the potential for GAS sore throats and Rheumatic fever when assessing children. Further information can be found here: <http://www.waikatodhb.health.nz/public-health-advice/a-z-of-public-health-topics/p-r/rheumatic-fever/>

Medical Officers of Health

Felicity Dumble -- Richard Wall – Richard Vipond – Richard Hoskins

After hours

Medical Officer of Health (MOoH) 021 359 650

Health Protection Officer (HPO) 021 999 521

If there is no answer, please contact Waikato Hospital's switchboard 07 839 8899 and ask for the on-call MOoH.

During office hours

Population Health (MOoH or HPO) (07) 838 2569

Notifications outside Hamilton: 0800 800 977

Email: notifiablediseases@waikatodhb.health.nz

Notifications 07 838 2569 ext. 22065 or 22020

Fax: 07 838 2382