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carolyn.gullery@cdhb.health.nz

11 December 2019

9(2)(a)

RE Official Information Act request CDHB 10223

I refer to your email dated 8 November 2019 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB.

- 1. Correspondence sent and received by the official responsible for ordering vaccines, about the need for more measles vaccines. (The information should include, but not be limited to, correspondence from primary health organisations asking for more vaccines/checking availability, internal reports about vaccine stocks, and warnings about what will happen if more vaccines are not provided.)**
Please provide this information in a searchable format and include all email attachments.

The timeframe of my request is May 16 (the date CDHB declared the outbreak over:

<https://www.cdhb.health.nz/public-health-alert/canterbury-measles-outbreak-declared-officially-over/>) and today's date (8/11/2019).

Canterbury DHB received communication from the Ministry of Health in September 2019 regards the measles outbreak in Auckland, and the restrictions placed on MMR vaccinations. A copy of this is attached. This allocation gave the DHB enough vaccine to vaccinate the priority groups as signalled by the Ministry of Health.

This information was shared with general practice, and a process was put in place to work with general practice teams around the monitoring and distribution for the MMR vaccine. At no stage has the Canterbury DHB received any formal request or communication from PHOs or general practice around the need for more vaccines (other than the process around stock orders). Neither have we written any reports around what would happen if more vaccines are not provided.

Canterbury DHB understood the position that the Ministry of Health was in and supported the allocation of limited vaccine to the most at need/vulnerable populations.

Please refer to the appendices (overleaf) for key information we received from the MoH and the messages we sent to general practice in Canterbury.

Appendix 1 (page 001) Community and Public Health MMR Vaccine Supply Update

Appendix 2 (page 002) Information for DHB Key contacts for the management of MMR vaccine stocks

Appendix 3 (page 007) Community and Public Health MMR Vaccine Supplies and Priority Groups

Appendix 4 (page 008) National Health Coordination Centre measles outbreak update for primary sector.

Appendix 5 (page 010) Update on vaccine allocation.

Canterbury DHB does not hold any further information that is pertinent to your request.

I trust that this satisfies your interest in this matter.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the Canterbury DHB website after your receipt of this response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gullery', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Carolyn Gullery

Executive Director

Planning, Funding & Decision Support

COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH

To Canterbury General Practitioners and Practice Nurses

20 September 2019

Fax 03 3796484

Canterbury

District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora o Waitaha

MMR Vaccine Supply Update

As per the message sent out to you on the 17 September, Pharmac have secured and released MMR vaccine for general practice. A bulk lot of vaccine was delivered yesterday, and a further fortnightly allocation will be made to each DHB.

For areas outside Auckland vaccine will be supplied to vaccinate the following priority groups:

- To ensure all children receive their vaccinations on time at **15 months** and **4 years** to maintain the national Childhood Immunisation Schedule. Any child aged 5 years or under and overdue their MMR should be actively recalled.
- susceptible close contacts within 72 hours of first exposure to measles when possible (*only on the advice of your public health unit*).

DHB	Vaccine in practices (as of 16 September)	Bulk vaccine allocated (doses)	Fortnightly allocation (doses)
Canterbury	1821	1050	140
Out of Scope			

Vaccine Demand Modelling

There is currently only enough vaccine coming into our DHBs to maintain the Childhood schedule. To ensure that vaccine is allocated to practices accurately we have undertaken a modelling process. This has considered the following:

- Practice stock level as of the 16 September
- The size of each practice's enrolled population of 1-4 year olds.
- In Canterbury, the vaccinations each practice gave to this age group in the outbreak earlier this year (a large number of children were vaccinated early during this outbreak).
- Using this figure we have made an estimate for each practice's total vaccine supply requirements between the 16 September and 30 December 2019 (14 weeks).

For some practices, this means that the vaccine you currently have in stock should carry you over until the end of December. Other practices require additional stock. We notified ProPharma of the practices who need additional stock yesterday and this should be arriving from today. We hope to ensure all practices have enough stock to manage until the 30th December. We will have the ability to restock on a fortnightly basis.

Reporting and continued ordering

The Ministry of Health is requiring DHBs to report on vaccine stocks in their general practices. In order for us to do that we require you to advise us of your MMR stock level by 12noon each Monday – please email these to

- Canterbury ^{9(2)(a)} [@cdhb.health.nz](mailto:[redacted]@cdhb.health.nz)
- Out of Scope [redacted]

We will use this information, and the vaccine administration information from the National Immunisation Register, to determine each practice's additional vaccine requirements.

Please direct any questions around this to ^{9(2)(a)} [@cdhb.health.nz](mailto:[redacted]@cdhb.health.nz) or contact your local Immunisation Coordinator.

Dr Ramon Pink, Medical Officer of Health

310 Manchester Street, PO Box 1475
Christchurch
Phone (03) 3799480, Fax (03)
3796484
Internet: <http://www.cpublichealth.co.nz>

Community and Public Health
Canterbury, South Canterbury, West
Coast

Elizabeth Street, Ashburton
18 Woolcombe Street, Timaru
3 Tarapuhi Street, Greymouth

Kathleen Smitheram

From: 9(2)(a)@health.govt.nz on behalf of NHCC_Operations@health.govt.nz
Sent: Wednesday, 18 September 2019 1:41 p.m.
To: Bridget Lester; sgreensmith@scdhub.health.nz;
9(2)(a)
Cc: NHCC_Operations@health.govt.nz; NHCC_Planning@health.govt.nz
Subject: Information for DHB key contacts for the management of MMR vaccine stocks
Attachments: Information for DHB key contacts for the management of MMR vaccine stocks.pdf;
ProPharma CH vaccine accounts.xlsx

Dear all

As discussed at the teleconference yesterday please find attached additional information for the DHB key contacts for the management of MMR vaccine stock. My apologies in the delay in providing you with this information and also noting West Coast DHB has been omitted from the ProPharma store table.

Out of Scope



We are preparing an Immunisation Update to immunisation providers which will be sent later today.

If you have any queries please email: NHCC_operations@health.govt.nz

Kind regards

9(2)(a)
NHCC Operations

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18 September 2019

Information for DHB key contacts for the management of MMR vaccine stocks

Background

DHBs, the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) and PHARMAC have worked closely over the past two weeks to actively manage the MMR vaccine distribution, ensuring vaccine is available for the priority groups. We sincerely thank all DHBs for your ongoing patience and support.

52,000 MMR vaccine doses (Priorix) arrived in the country early this week and are being distributed this week to the ProPharma Regional Vaccine Stores. Currently, these 52,000 doses are the only stock available in the country until January 2020. Further stock has been allocated to New Zealand and PHARMAC are confirming delivery details.

DHB nominated MMR vaccine stock manager

To ensure these MMR vaccine doses are allocated equitably across your immunisation providers, the Ministry has asked all DHBs to nominate a key contact to liaise directly with your ProPharma stores and immunisation providers on the distribution of the MMR vaccine. We anticipate these arrangements may be in place for approximately six weeks and we will update you as more information becomes available.

As your DHB's nominated stock manager you will need to work closely with your public health unit to allocate any vaccine needed for immunisation of susceptible close contacts, bearing in mind maintenance of the Childhood Immunisation Schedule is the priority (refer to the priority groups below).

Please inform your immunisation providers you will managing the distribution of their MMR vaccine stock on their behalf.

Note: Immunisation providers will not be able to order MMR vaccine supplies directly from the ProPharma stores.

MMR vaccine priority groups

At this time the priority for MMR vaccinations should be:

Auckland

- ensure all children receive their MMR vaccinations on time at **12 months** and **4 years** to maintain the national Childhood Immunisation Schedule
- targeted community outreach managed by the three Auckland DHBs, namely groups who are most affected by the outbreak including 15-29 year olds and Pacific peoples within those groups.

Rest of New Zealand

- ensure all children receive their vaccinations on time at **15 months** and **4 years** to maintain the national Childhood Immunisation Schedule
- susceptible close contacts within 72 hours of first exposure to measles when possible.

MMR vaccine stock management

The distribution of the 52,000 MMR vaccine doses has been allocated to DHBs in two parts:

1. Each DHB will receive a bulk MMR vaccine distribution to allow you to allocate to your providers to restock their MMR vaccine supplies commencing from Thursday 19 September.
2. A maximum number of MMR doses per fortnight to ensure immunisation providers can maintain the national Childhood Immunisation Schedule (refer to the priority groups above) from 30 September onwards.

Refer to the DHB MMR stock allocation table attached below. Note: these DHB allocations are based on MMR vaccine historical ordering patterns over the past three months with a further additional 20% included.

MMR vaccine stock allocation by DHB

DHB	One off bulk MMR vaccine pack allocation per DHB	Maximum packs DHBs can order on a fortnightly basis
Northland	Out of Scope	
Auckland Metro		
Waikato		
Bay of Plenty		
Lakes		
Tairāwhiti		
Taranaki		
Whanganui		
Hawkes Bay		
MidCentral		
Capital and Coast		
Hutt		
Wairarapa		
Nelson Marlborough		
West Coast		
Canterbury	105	14
South Canterbury	Out of Scope	
Southern		
Totals		

*Each pack contains 10 doses

*ProPharma can not split packs

Allocating MMR vaccine stock to your immunisation providers

A list of existing immunisation providers in your DHB area has been provided, please use this list as it includes the providers ProPharma account number and address for vaccine deliveries.

Please contact each Immunisation Provider fortnightly to determine their:

1. Stock on hand
2. Vaccine stock requirements for the next fortnight.

You will need to determine how to allocate the volume of MMR stock per the table below. This includes the one off bulk allocation to restock fridges and the weekly allocation of stock.

Stock should be allocated per the priority groups noted above and in the Health Advisory disseminated on 17 September 2019.

Note: Immunisation providers will not be able to order MMR vaccine supplies directly from the ProPharma stores.

Frequency of ordering from ProPharma

As your DHB MMR stock distribution manager you can start placing MMR vaccine orders from Wednesday 18 September 2019 to enable distribution of your orders to your immunisation providers.

You can order for each immunisation provider once a fortnight which is how providers normally order their funded National Immunisation Schedule vaccines.

Please discuss with your ProPharma contact listed below to determine your fortnightly ordering schedule (i.e. what day) which works best for you and ProPharma.

ProPharma key contacts

ProPharma Store	Name	Email address	DHB
Whangarei	9(2)(a)		
Auckland			
Hamilton			
Wellington			
Christchurch	9(2)(a)	9(2)(a)@ProPharma.co.nz	Canterbury, Nelson Marlborough, South Canterbury
Dunedin	9(2)(a)		

Vaccine orders placed prior to 18 September 2019

All MMR vaccine orders up to 18 September 2019 have been cancelled. Orders from 18 September will only be accepted from the DHB MMR vaccine stock manager.

Splitting packs

ProPharma cannot split MMR ten packs, so you will need to place orders for complete packs. At this stage we are seeking advice from Medsafe regarding the splitting of the MMR ten packs by DHBs and will provide more information at a later date.

Reporting Requirements to Ministry of Health – Tuesdays and Fridays by 10am

At this stage in order for the Ministry to manage the MMR vaccine supply and distribution can you please send an update on the following information to NHCC_Operations@health.govt.nz by 10am every Tuesday and Friday. Please provide an update on the:

- MMR vaccine stock held by your immunisation providers
- DHB MMR stock allocation i.e. no. of MMR vaccine packs ordered and the no. of MMR vaccine packs remaining within your allocation.

Ordering other National Immunisation Schedule vaccines

Immunisation providers will need to continue to order all other National Immunisation Schedule vaccines via the ProPharma online ordering website as per normal.

Any questions?

If you have any questions please email NHCC_Operations@health.govt.nz

9(2)(a)

NHCC National Controller
Ministry of Health

9(2)(a)

NHCC Operations
Ministry of Health

COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH

To Canterbury General Practitioners and Practice Nurses

17 September 2019

Fax 03 3796484

Canterbury

District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora o Waitaha

MMR VACCINE SUPPLIES AND PRIORITY GROUPS

The current measles outbreak has created pressure across the health system, particularly in Auckland, and we thank you for your continuing work to protect the health of New Zealanders.

Over the past two weeks, the Ministry of Health, PHARMAC and DHBs have managed distribution to ensure that MMR vaccine is available to meet priorities. To assist with this process, each DHB has been asked to nominate a single point of contact for stock management. The contact for the Canterbury DHB is working with ^{9(2)(a)} of Planning and Funding.

She will keep working closely with regional distributors, PHOs and practices to manage the distribution of stock over the coming weeks, to ensure that vaccine stock is going to where it is needed most.

The Ministry reiterates the focus on priority groups (detailed below), to help continue the careful management of vaccine stock. We ask that general practice and PHOs reserve vaccine for these priority groups.

The priority for MMR vaccinations is:

New Zealand (except Auckland)

- ensure all children receive their vaccinations on time at **15 months** and **4 years** to maintain the national Childhood Immunisation Schedule
- susceptible close contacts within 72 hours of first exposure to measles when possible (*only on the advice of your public health unit*).

Auckland

- ensure all children receive their MMR vaccinations on time at **12 months** and **4 years** to maintain the national Childhood Immunisation Schedule
- targeted community outreach managed by the three Auckland DHBs, namely groups who are most affected by the outbreak including 15-29 year olds and Pacific peoples within those groups.

You can help to ensure that MMR vaccine is used to protect the most vulnerable populations by only vaccinating people from the groups listed above.

Non-priority groups

For patients booked-in to receive MMR or those are eligible but don't meet the above priorities, we recommend that practices include them on a recall list for when vaccine stock is sufficient.

It's very important for all of the population to be protected and we don't want to lose the opportunity to offer MMR to all who are eligible when we can. When stocks are secure, general practices should be offering two documented doses of MMR vaccine to those who need it at no cost, as per the New Zealand Pharmaceutical Schedule.

Dr Ramon Pink
Medical Officer of Health

Kathleen Smitheram

From: 9(2)(a) @health.govt.nz on behalf of NHCC_Operations@health.govt.nz
Sent: Thursday, 5 September 2019 4:14 p.m.
Subject: National Health Coordination Centre measles outbreak update for primary care sector

Kia ora koutou katoa

There is a significant measles outbreak in the Auckland region which commenced in March 2019.

During this outbreak, we continue to ask for your support for all children to get their vaccinations on time, and in Auckland to prioritise those communities most affected, namely Pacific peoples, and those under 4 years of age and aged between 15 and 29 years.

Normal monthly usage of MMR vaccine in New Zealand is approximately 12,000 doses. From 1 January to 3 September 2019 230,000 doses of MMR vaccine were distributed nationwide. From 1 September to 4 September, over 30,000 doses were distributed around the country - about 2/3 of these within the Auckland region.

While I know many of you are feeling the pressure, particularly in the Auckland region, this is a huge testament to the work the sector is doing to protect our communities and I sincerely thank you for that.

Last night we put a brief pause on vaccination distribution from some warehouses while we were working through some logistical issues. While this pause has now been lifted, it may have an impact on orders received today. It's important to note that ProPharma orders shipped this morning may not include MMR vaccine, and that ProPharma does not keep backorders. If you did not receive your order, you'll need to resubmit it.

We continue to keep an eye on distribution and are working closely with PHARMAC to ensure vaccine is going to where it is most needed, the priority being managing the outbreak in Auckland and ensuring children are vaccinated on time.

We have received feedback about the flow of information during this outbreak. We will provide you with regular updates from Monday 9 September 2019 – please visit health.govt.nz/measlesupdate to join the mailing list.

Ngā mihi

Dr Ashley Bloomfield
Director-General of Health

Current advice as at Thursday 5 September 2019

Auckland region

- Actively recall babies for MMR1 to be delivered from 12 months – this can be recorded as 15-month event on the NIR
- Other 15-month vaccines can be given at the same time if this is what the parent/caregiver wishes.

Other regions

- We are recommending that babies travelling to Auckland are fully immunised and that MMR1 is given from 12 months for these children
- We are not recommending that practices *actively recall* all 12 month old babies to receive MMR1. However, if families request that MMR1 be given earlier than 15 months (between 12 months and 15 months) then it can be given
- The other 15-month vaccines can also be given earlier (between 12 and 15 months) if this is what the parent/caregiver wishes.

Infants aged under 12 months

- The best protection for very young children is to ensure that those around them are vaccinated, including family

members, whānau and carers

- In general, only babies aged under 12 months who are travelling to countries with uncontrolled outbreaks of measles should receive the vaccine
- Our current advice is that babies under 12 months of age who are living in or travelling to Auckland do not need an additional early dose of the MMR vaccine
- Antibodies transferred from the mother to the baby can provide some protection and make the MMR vaccine less effective until about one year of age. As the vaccine's effectiveness is lower for babies under 12 months of age, if they are given the vaccine, they will still need two further doses of the MMR vaccine once they turn one year, for long term protection.

Waiting room protocol

Measles is a highly contagious airborne infection. Patients with suspected measles may not have called ahead, so be prepared to implement Infection Prevention and Control measures. For example, please keep an accurate record of walk-in patients and other visitors in case contact tracing is required, identify suitable triage and isolation areas for suspect measles cases, allow only immune staff to have contact with the patient, and use appropriate personal protective equipment (eg N95 masks). Place signs, hand gels and surgical masks at waiting room entrances or reception desks. Patients with suspected measles should be told to isolate at home, and if sending them to hospital or labs, make arrangements to avoid common waiting rooms etc.

If there are any changes to the Ministry's immunisation advice will be communicated via our existing channels.

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Kathleen Smitheram

From: [REDACTED]@health.govt.nz on behalf of NHCC_Operations@health.govt.nz
Sent: Tuesday, 1 October 2019 4:41 p.m.
Subject: Update on vaccine allocation
Attachments: allocation for DHBs.xlsx; GP Fax final 01102019.docx

Kia ora koutou,

Thank you for your ongoing work. As discussed with many of you by phone, the NHCC is pleased to inform you that the additional 100,000 MMR vaccine doses are expected to arrive in the week commencing 14 October 2019. This has enabled us to reallocate vaccine from later in the year to ease the pressure on you and your general practices now. The attached spread sheet shows your DHB's weekly allocation between now and the end of December 2019. The attached communications to the sector will be sent tomorrow morning to primary care contacts. A public statement is planned for tomorrow and we would ask that you do not share this message more widely prior to that.

The priority groups for vaccination have not changed but we anticipate that the additional stock will allow primary care providers more flexibility to exercise clinical judgement about whether someone outside the priority groups should be vaccinated. We anticipate that the additional allocations will also allow for more outbreak response activities in areas that have increased cases. We would like for DHBs and PHUs to continue to provide us with plans for any outbreak response activities at NHCC_Operations@health.govt.nz

Ngā mihi

NHCC Operations

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We thank you again for your ongoing work to protect the health of New Zealanders and acknowledge the pressure the current measles outbreak has created across the health system.

The Ministry of Health, PHARMAC and DHBs will continue to manage MMR vaccine distribution to ensure that the vaccine is available to meet priorities and target outbreak areas. This process is critical to ensure that our most vulnerable communities can be protected. DHB stock managers will keep working closely with regional distributors, PHOs and practices to manage the distribution of stock until at least the end of 2019, to ensure that vaccine stock is going to where it is needed most.

The Ministry reiterates that the focus on priority groups (detailed below) will continue, to help continue the careful management of vaccine stock. However, the additional doses will allow for more flexibility in clinical decisions and more outbreak response activities in areas with increased cases.

Any outbreak response activities should be discussed with your DHB stock manager and a plan sent to NHCC Operations at the email address below.

The priority for MMR vaccinations remains:

Auckland

- ensure all children receive their MMR vaccinations on time at **12 months** and **4 years** to maintain the national Childhood Immunisation Schedule
- targeted community outreach managed by the three Auckland DHBs, namely groups who are most affected by the outbreak including 15-29-year olds and Pacific peoples within those groups.

Rest of New Zealand

- ensure all children receive their vaccinations on time at **15 months** and **4 years** to maintain the national Childhood Immunisation Schedule
- susceptible close contacts within 72 hours of first exposure to measles when possible and limited outbreak response activities in consultation with the NHCC.

Additional information regarding clinical flexibility:

Active recall of children under 5 years of age

In accordance with the national Childhood Immunisation Schedule, all children under 5 who have not yet received their second dose of MMR should be actively recalled. We consider this group to be in line with the priority groups above.

Vaccination of people excluded from work or school in the case of an outbreak

People outside of the priority groups who may be excluded from work or school will be managed as part of any outbreak response required by the relevant local public health unit.

Vaccination of people in everyday contact with priority groups eg. healthcare workers and ECE teachers

The Ministry and DHBs continue to focus on ensuring professionals in everyday contact with the priority groups are fully immunised. Primary care in outbreak areas have the clinical flexibility to assess vaccinating non immune individuals at high risk of exposure to measles and vaccinating if required. We recommend this is discussed with your DHB.

Travelling to areas with serious measles outbreaks (international and Auckland) for infants under 15 months

If you have children under 5 who are not up to date with their scheduled MMR vaccinations, we recommend they are vaccinated at least two weeks before travel to areas where there are serious measles outbreaks. Infants aged 6–15 months who are travelling to areas where there are serious

measles outbreaks are able to get the MMR vaccine before leaving. For parents who request an MMR dose 0 (infants aged 6–11 months) due to concerns about their infant being at high risk of exposure, a GP may provide a prescription for this vaccine dose to be administered if felt to be appropriate. Your child will still need two more doses of the MMR vaccine between the ages of 1 and 4 years old.

Other groups:

The additional stock will allow primary care providers more flexibility to exercise clinical judgement about whether someone outside the priority groups should be vaccinated. If a practice decides against vaccinating someone immediately, they should record their name and number and recall them as additional vaccines become available.

We have asked the DHB stock managers to report to us weekly on vaccine stock within their DHB and ask that you support them in their collation of this information. Your DHB's nominated stock manager will continue to be the sole point of contact for ordering the MMR vaccine. Please continue to order other schedule vaccines in the normal way through your regional distribution centre.

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

DHB Stock Distribution based on current stock levels with additional national resupply														
	Release date													
REGION	30/09/2019	7/10/2019	14/10/2019	21/10/2019	28/10/2019	4/11/2019	11/11/2019	18/11/2019	25/11/2019	2/12/2019	9/12/2019	16/12/2019	23/12/2019	30/12/2019
Northland														
Auckland Metro														
Waikato														
Bay of Plenty														
Lakes														
Tairāwhiti														
Taranaki														
Whanganui														
Hawkes Bay														
MidCentral														
Capital and Coast														
Hutt														
Wairarapa														
Nelson Marlborough														
West Coast														
Canterbury	70	70	70	300	300	290	290	290	290	290	290	290	70	70
South Canterbury														
Southern														