

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING ROUTINE VACCINATIONS

WITH EFFECT FROM 1 OCTOBER THE NATIONAL IMMUNISATION SCHEDULE HAS CHANGED – THIS AFFECTS ALL CHILDREN AND ADULTS AGED 45 AND 65 YEARS OF AGE.

A SUMMARY OF THE CHANGES IS AS FOLLOWS:

6 WEEK CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION:	No Change
3 MONTH VACCINATIONS:	No pneumococcal vaccine – this will now be given at 12 months
5 MONTH VACCINATIONS:	No change
12 MONTH VACCINATION (NEW):	First MMR + pneumococcal
15 MONTH VACCINATION:	Second MMR; Varicella (Chicken Pox); Infarix Hexa (Tetanus, Diphtheria, whooping cough, polio, Hepatitis B, and HiB influenza)
4 YEARS:	Infarix IPV (Tetanus, Diphtheria, whooping cough, polio, and HiB influenza)
11 YEARS:	No change
45 YEARS:	Boostrix (Tetanus, Diphtheria, Whooping cough) (where there is no evidence of 4 previous doses)
65 YEARS:	Boostrix (Tetanus, Diphtheria, Whooping cough), Seasonal Influenza, Shingles

ALL THE ABOVE VACCINATIONS ARE FREE!

For further information please refer to link below:

<https://www.immune.org.nz/new-zealand-national-immunisation-schedule>

MEASLES, MUMPS RUBELLA (MMR) catch up programme

We recently had a measles outbreak in New Zealand, more than 2,000 people got measles in 2019. 700 had to go to hospital. Māori and Pacific peoples were particularly affected. We need 95 percent of people to be immune to reach 'community immunity' (sometimes known as 'herd immunity') and help stop future outbreaks (MoH, 2020).

CHILDREN under 4 years age

With effect from 1 October, the MMR schedule has been changed to enable children to have received their two doses of MMR by the age of 15 months – this allows for improved protection against measles, mumps and rubella from an earlier age. Parents of children who have only received their first dose at 15 months will be contacted by WHS to bring their children in for their second dose. Children aged between 15 months and 2 years are being contacted initially, followed by 2-3 years of age, and then 3 – 4 years. However, please do not wait to be contacted – you are welcome to ring the practice and book an appt for your child.

People aged between 15 – 30 years

People in this age group generally will require a second dose of MMR and are the next priority group for the Government's catch up programme. If you cannot find evidence of receiving a second dose of MMR, please contact the practice to receive your second dose, free of charge.

Finally, anyone born after 1 January 1969, who has not received a second dose of MMR, is eligible for a free vaccine.

People born before 1 January, 1969 are generally considered to be immune to measles, mumps and rubella and therefore not eligible for a funded vaccine.

For further information, please go to:

<https://www.health.govt.nz/your-health/healthy-living/immunisation/protect-against-measles>

<https://www.health.govt.nz/your-health/healthy-living/immunisation/are-your-immunisations-date>

Please do not hesitate to ring the practice and ask to speak to one of the nurses for any advice regarding your vaccination status.