



**Facsimile Cover Sheet /Wharangi Nama Waea**

Date/Te Ra: **7 September 2012**

To/Kia: GP's, Practice nurses at Primary Care Centres, After Hours Centres, Wellington Free Ambulance staff, Pharmacists, the Emergency Department and Hospital Staff in the greater Wellington and Wairarapa regions.	From/Na: Drs Annette Nesdale Medical Officers of Health Regional Public Health
Name of Agency/Wahi Mahi:	Fax Number/Nama Waea:

## Public Health Alert Meningococcal Disease

I would be grateful if you could distribute the following information with updated information on meningococcal disease to relevant staff in your organisation.

If you would also like to receive this by email for ease of distribution, storage and retrieval please advise RPH of your email on [rph@huttvalleydhs.org.nz](mailto:rph@huttvalleydhs.org.nz).

Kind regards,

Dr Annette Nesdale  
Medical Officer of Health

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He ture no nga korero katoa kei roto o tenei karere, no reira, kia tupato. Mehemea kaore matau kaua e mau. Me whakamohiotia atu ki to Tari, me te mea nana i tono mai. E Tika Hoki.



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**To:** GPs and Practice nurses at Primary Care Centres, After Hours Centres, Wellington Free Ambulance staff, Pharmacists, the Emergency Department and Hospital Staff in the greater Wellington and Wairarapa regions.

**From:** Dr Annette Nesdale, Medical Officer of Health, Regional Public Health

## **Public Health Alert**

### **Meningococcal disease:**

The strain of meningococcal disease in the 12 year old child who died on Monday has been confirmed as Group C. This brings the number of cases of Group C meningococcal disease since August to four.

Regional Public Health will be advising parents of children at Evans Bay Intermediate School that there are vaccines available for Group C meningococcal disease. However these are not funded on the national immunization schedule.

There are likely to be a number of enquiries to general practice from parents who wish to have their children vaccinated against Meningococcal Group C. We have sent you information on meningococcal disease, including the vaccines, earlier this week. This information is also available on the IMAC website:

[www.immune.org.nz/sites/default/files/resources/DiseaseMeningococcalmac20120816V01Final.pdf](http://www.immune.org.nz/sites/default/files/resources/DiseaseMeningococcalmac20120816V01Final.pdf)

Attached is the letter that is being sent out to all children and parents at Evans Bay Intermediate School.

Please continue to have a high level of suspicion for meningococcal disease particularly in children and young adults.

Dr Annette Nesdale  
Medical Officer of Health  
Regional Public Health



## APPENDIX 1

7 September 2012

To: Students, Parents/Caregivers of Students and Staff at Evans Bay Intermediate School

We are aware that this is a difficult time for all of you. This letter is to confirm that laboratory tests have identified Amanda Crook-Barker had Group C Meningococcal disease. Group C and Group B are the most common strains causing disease in New Zealand, this year there have been 7 cases of meningococcal disease in the Wellington region, 4 have been Group C.

**Note: Group C vaccination is different to the MenZB vaccine that children/ teens received in NZ programme between 2004 and 2008. The MenZB vaccine programme was to stop the outbreak of a specific type of group B that was causing most disease at that time. The protection from this vaccine was not long lasting.**

Some families maybe wondering about the group c vaccine, there are several vaccines available against Group C disease. Group C vaccines are not one of the vaccines children are routinely offered in New Zealand. The group C vaccination costs approximately \$50 to \$150 plus the consultation/ administration fee at local medical centres. If you want to get this vaccine for someone in your family most medical centres would need to order in the vaccines, please call your medical centre to confirm the availability and cost.

Further information about meningococcal disease and Group C immunisation is attached in a fact sheet. You can also telephone IMAC on 0800 IMMUNE (0800 466863) for further information on vaccination.

Dr Annette Nesdale  
Medical Officer of Health  
**REGIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH**