

31 May 2019

PHARMAC
PO Box 10254
The Terrace
Wellington 6143

Tēnā koe

Re: Proposal to widen access to pertussis (whooping cough) vaccine

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a written submission on this consultation document.

Regional Public Health (RPH) serves the greater Wellington region, through its three district health boards (DHBs): Capital & Coast, Hutt Valley and Wairarapa and as a service is part of the Hutt Valley District Health Board. We work with our community to make it a healthier safer place to live. We promote good health, prevent disease, and improve the quality of life for our population, with a particular focus on children, Māori and working with primary care organisations. Our staff includes a range of occupations such as: medical officers of health, public health advisors, health protection officers, public health nurses, and public health analysts.

RPH supports the proposal, however would like clarification and consideration of the following:

- Waning of the antibody in both the mother and infant – how this will impact if the vaccine is administered in the 1st trimester of pregnancy?
- While applauding the inclusion of parents of infants admitted to Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) or Specialist Care Baby Unit (SCBU) for more than 3 days: the proposal indicates eligible parents would need to visit their general practitioner to receive this vaccine. Please consider the vaccine being available to the parents in the units during their infant's hospitalisation. Generally parents are in the units with their infants. It is a stressful time for the parents who most often do not want to leave their unwell infant.

We are happy to provide further advice or clarification on any of the points raised in our written submission. The contact point for this submission is:

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Ngā mihi

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