

16 September 2019

PHARMAC
PO Box 10254
The Terrace
Wellington 6143

Tēnā koe

Re: Proposal to widen access to meningococcal ACWY vaccine for people in close-living situations

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

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 to widen access to funded meningococcal ACWY vaccine for people living in close living situations. If this proposal is implemented we would see significant value in enhanced promotion of the full range of recommend vaccines (MMR, Boostrix etc¹) that are relevant to stop disease transmission in close living situations. The current measles outbreak and recurrent pertussis outbreaks highlight the importance of this. We also support extension of funded vaccine to the other priority groups proposed (children 1-4 years with catch up, and other groups) as resourcing permits.

We are unsure if consideration is being given to funded access to group B meningococcal vaccine for those aged 13-25 years in close living situations. Provision of both vaccines simultaneously would be efficient and reduce disease risk.

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

Dr Annette Nesdale
Medical Officer of Health

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¹ Staying Healthy while studying
https://www.immune.org.nz/sites/default/files/resources/Written%20Resources/NonprogrammeTertiaryStudentVaccinati on20181115V01Final_0.pdf