

19 May 2021

PHARMAC  
PO Box 10254  
Wellington 6143

Tēnā koe

**Re: Proposal to fund meningococcal B vaccine (Bexsero) for close contacts of cases and people at higher risk of meningococcal disease**

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.

RPH supports the proposal to fund meningococcal B (Bexsero) for people who are close contacts of meningococcal cases from 1 July 2021. The rationale is two-fold:

1. Group B disease is the most common type of meningococcal disease accounting for 48% of cases (40/83) in the greater Wellington region since 1 January 2011.
2. This proposal supports health equity for Māori. 35% of group B meningococcal disease cases in the greater Wellington region identify as Māori.

We also support the proposal to fund meningococcal B vaccine (Bexsero) for people who are at higher risk of meningococcal disease.

If this proposal is implemented we would see significant value in enhanced promotion of the full range of vaccines on the national immunisation schedule (MMR, Boostrix etc) that are relevant to stop disease transmission in close living situations. The current Covid-19 global pandemic highlights the importance of this.

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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