

BOPDHB Position Statement

Immunisation

Introduction

The Bay of Plenty District Health Board (BOPDHB) is required under legislation:

- to improve, promote, and protect the health of people and communities;
- to promote the inclusion and participation in society and independence of people with disabilities;
- to reduce health disparities by improving health outcomes for Maori and other population groups;
- to exhibit a sense of social responsibility by having regard to the interests of the people to whom it provides, or for whom it arranges the provision of, services;
- to exhibit a sense of environmental responsibility by having regard to the environmental implications of its operations.

The BOPDHB has prepared a series of position statements which demonstrate its commitment to these objectives, and outlines its viewpoint on different health issues.

1.0 The Bay of Plenty DHB affirms the following:

- 1.1 Immunisation is effective in reducing the harm caused from a wide range of communicable diseases.
- 1.2 The benefits of immunisation far outweigh the risks, with approved vaccines having a high safety profile.
- 1.3 Its commitment to improving the immunisation status of DHB employees to prevent the spread of vaccine preventable diseases such as hepatitis B and influenza to patients, and to protecting the health of DHB employees, their families and the BOP community.
- 1.4 The right of individuals to make informed decisions as to whether to immunise themselves, and for parents to make informed decisions as to whether to immunise their children.
- 1.5 To achieve immunisation health target rates for Maori, Pacific and other population groups at the same or higher rates as for the New Zealand European population.
- 1.6 It will engage with key stakeholders across the public, primary and secondary health sectors to promote, coordinate and support immunisation programmes.
- 1.7 The BOPDHB will actively distribute accurate information on immunisation to the BOP community.



2.0 The Bay of Plenty DHB notes that:

Immunisation is one of the most cost-effective ways to provide protection against a range of preventable diseases. Immunisation is an effective way to reduce the transmission of a number of communicable diseases at both individual and population levels. Inequalities in vaccination rates contribute to disparities in health outcomes.¹

The national immunisation schedule sets out the types of vaccines and ages of administration which are publicly funded for eligible groups by the Ministry of Health. The schedule is supplemented by a selection of vaccines which may be administered in certain conditions.² The Board will promote, plan, fund and deliver immunisation services to children and adults according to the National Immunisation Schedule.

The national immunisation targets set by the Ministry of Health, the BOPDHB Annual Plan and Māori Health Plan outline the population immunisation targets that the BOPDHB will strive for. The Board recognises the importance of achieving $\geq 95\%$ immunisation coverage at all immunisation events during a child's first five years, to ensure the safety of all children and adults living in the BOP.

Adopted by the BOPDHB Board at its meeting on 19 October 2011.

Review This position statement will be reviewed in three years, or as necessary

¹ WHO, UNICEF, World Bank. *State of the world's vaccines and immunisation*, 3rd ed. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2009.

² Ministry of Health. 2011. *Immunisation Handbook 2011*. Wellington: Ministry of Health.





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