

# Briefing for decision

## Cabinet Legislation Committee Paper – Revocation of the Health (Immunisation) Regulations 1995

**Date due to MO:** 25 November 2025      **Action required by:** 27 November 2025

**Security level:** IN CONFIDENCE      **Reference:** H2025075924

**To:** Hon Simeon Brown, Minister of Health

**Proactive release:** This **title** is proposed by the Ministry of Health for proactive release:

### Contact for telephone discussion

Name	Position	Telephone
<b>Dr Andrew Old</b>	Deputy Director-General of Health, Public Health Agency	9(2)(a)
<b>Samuel Andrews</b>	Manager, Public Health Policy and Regulation, Public Health Agency	9(2)(a)

### Minister's office to complete:

- Approved       Decline       Overtaken by events
- Needs change       Seen
- See Minister's Notes       Withdrawn

Comment:

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**Security level:** IN CONFIDENCE      **Date:** 25 November 2025

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**To:** Hon Simeon Brown, Minister of Health

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### Purpose of report

1. This briefing provides an updated Cabinet paper and talking points on the repeal of the Health (Immunisation) Regulations 1995 for the Cabinet Legislation Committee meeting on 4 December 2025.

### Background

2. On 25 March 2025, the Cabinet Expenditure and Regulatory Review Committee considered the recommendations arising from the Ministry for Regulation's Early Childhood Education Regulatory Review and agreed to revoke the Health (Immunisation) Regulations 1995 (the Regulations). Cabinet confirmed this on 31 March 2025 (EXP-25-MIN-0015 and CAB-25-MIN-0092 refer).
3. While the review focused on early childhood education, the Regulations also apply to primary schools, and revocation will affect them as well.
4. As the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) is the administering agency for the Regulations, Cabinet invited you to issue drafting instructions to the Parliamentary Counsel Office for an Order in Council to give effect to the revocation.
5. On 23 April 2025, the Minister for Regulation publicly announced the outcomes of the Early Childhood Education (ECE) Review, including that the revocation of the Regulations will take effect from 1 January 2026.

### Steps to be taken for the revocation of the Regulations

6. For the Regulations to be revoked in January 2026, the Cabinet Legislation Committee (LEG) should consider the Health (Immunisation) Regulations Revocation Order 2025 at its meeting on 4 December 2025. The earliest the revocation can take effect following Cabinet's subsequent meeting on 8 December is 8 January 2026.
7. The draft Cabinet paper to be presented to the LEG meeting is attached for your consideration as **Appendix A**. The Ministry has also prepared talking points to support you at the meeting (see **Appendix B**).

8. The Parliamentary Counsel Office will provide the Revocation Order directly to your office once it has been certified as being in order for submission to Cabinet. A timeline is presented below.

### Current measles outbreak

9. The Order would remove the requirement for ECE providers and primary schools to maintain their own registers of enrolled children's immunisation status, as more accurate information is readily available through the Aotearoa Immunisation Register (AIR).
10. The National Public Health Service (NPHS) has confirmed during the current measles outbreak that the AIR continues to be a superior, more accurate information source to school-based immunisation registers. The Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education have a data sharing agreement which facilitates transfer of data and information.
11. The AIR holds immunisation records for students born since 2005 and vaccinated in New Zealand, but more time is needed to gather records for students vaccinated overseas or staff. Officials are continuing to streamline the information sharing processes between NPHS and the Ministry of Education, and a data sharing platform is one aspect of that work to avoid disruption in the event of an outbreak.

### Timeline summary of next steps

Action	Timing
LEG paper lodged with Cabinet office	Thursday 27 November 2025
Paper considered at LEG	Thursday 4 December 2025
Paper confirmed by Cabinet and submitted to Executive Council	Monday 8 December 2025
Health (Immunisation) Regulation Revocation Order comes into force	Thursday 8 January 2026

### Next steps

12. Health New Zealand and the Ministry of Education will continue to inform ECE providers and primary schools of the timing and changes to their obligations and updated processes for managing disease outbreaks.

### Recommendations

We recommend you:

- a) **Agree** to take the Cabinet paper to the Cabinet Legislation Committee **Yes / No** meeting on 4 December 2025 seeking approval of the Health (Immunisation) Regulations Revocation Order 2025.

- b) **Note** Health New Zealand and the Ministry of Education will inform Early Childhood Education providers and primary schools of the timing and impact of changes to the Regulations. **Noted**



Dr Andrew Old  
Deputy Director-General of Health  
**Public Health Agency | Te Pou Hauora**  
**Tūmatanui**

Date: 25 November 2025

Hon Simeon Brown  
**Minister of Health**

Date:

ENDS.

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**Appendix A – draft Cabinet Legislation Committee paper**

**[attached separately]**

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**Appendix B – suggested talking points for the Cabinet  
Legislation Committee meeting on 4 December 2025**

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