2019 DHB Health Care Worker Influenza Immunisation Coverage
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Background

Health care workers (HCW), by virtue of their occupation, are at increased risk of contracting influenza and may transmit the infection to susceptible contacts, with the potential for serious outcomes.

All district health boards (DHBs) offer free influenza immunisation to their employed staff. Since 2010, the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) has reported DHB HCW influenza immunisation coverage rates, which remained stable between 65 to 68 percent from 2015 to 2018.

In 2018, the Ministry introduced a goal of 80 percent of all HCW to be immunised annually against influenza. DHB HCW influenza coverage for 2019 was 73 percent which is the highest rate since 2010.
Occupational groups

The following occupational groups are included for the collection and comparison of influenza immunisation coverage:

- **Nurses**: Includes registered and enrolled nurses.
- **Doctors**: Includes registered doctors.
- **Midwives**: Includes registered midwives.
- **Allied staff**: Includes but not limited to physiotherapists, laboratory technicians, occupational therapists, dieticians, social workers, pharmacists, radiologists, speech language therapists, etc.
- **Health care assistants***: Includes unregistered health care workers who work under the guidance of a registered health care professional and provide direct personal patient care, for example health care assistants, nurse aids or patient carers.
- **Other employees**: May include but not limited to health care assistants, cleaners, orderlies, administrators, management etc.

* Health care assistants were added as a new occupational group in 2018.
Non-employed individuals

DHBs also offer free influenza immunisation to individuals not employed by the DHB but working in their facilities such as contractors, registered midwives, health care students, etc. The numbers of vaccines given to this group are collected by DHBs but it is not possible to calculate the immunisation coverage as there is no set denominator for this group.
DHB staff vaccinated elsewhere

DHB employed staff who have had their influenza immunisation elsewhere (eg, own general practitioner) are not included in these DHB coverage rates. However, some DHBs collect this information and staff are asked to inform the DHB if they have been vaccinated elsewhere.
Total DHB health care worker coverage 2010–2019

Figure 1: Total DHB health care worker influenza immunisation coverage 2010–2019

Total DHB HCW influenza immunisation coverage rates have remained steady for the past few years with 73 percent recorded in 2019, the highest coverage to date.
Comparison of DHB health care worker coverage by DHB 2016–2019

Figure 2: DHB health care worker influenza immunisation coverage by DHB 2016–2019

DHB HCW influenza immunisation coverage rates in 2019 varied, with an average of 73 percent across all DHBs, a 5 percent increase from 2018. Eleven DHBs achieved coverage over 70 percent, with Tairāwhiti and Northland over 80 percent. The most significant increase in coverage was seen in Taranaki with an increase of 11 percent.
Comparison of DHB health care worker coverage by occupation 2016–2019

Figure 3: DHB health care worker influenza immunisation coverage by occupation 2016–2019

DHB HCW total influenza immunisation coverage by occupation has increased across most occupational groups in 2019, averaging 73 percent. Midwives’ coverage remained stable at 62 percent this year while other groups increased by between 3 and 7 percent. Note: In 2018, health care assistants were included as a separate occupational group; previously they may have been recorded under other occupational groupings.
The 2019 total influenza immunisation coverage rate for DHB nurses averaged 78 percent, an increase of 7 percent from 2018. Nine DHBs maintained or increased their nursing staff coverage with Tairāwhiti, Northland and Auckland reporting over 80 percent and Taranaki increasing by 12 percent this year.

The 2019 total influenza immunisation coverage rate for DHB doctors has increased by 5 percent with Bay of Plenty, Hutt Valley, Northland, South Canterbury, Tairāwhiti, Taranaki, West Coast and Whanganui reporting coverage over 80 percent.
The 2019 total influenza immunisation coverage rate for DHB remained the same as 2018 at 62 percent. While coverage varied across all DHBs, six achieved over 70 percent and five increased their midwives’ coverage by more than 10 percent compared to 2018. Taranaki increased coverage by 24 percent.

**Figure 6: Midwives’ influenza immunisation coverage by DHB 2016–2019**

![Midwives’ influenza immunisation coverage by DHB 2016–2019](image)

**Figure 7: Allied staff influenza immunisation coverage by DHB 2016–2019**

![Allied staff influenza immunisation coverage by DHB 2016–2019](image)
The 2019 total influenza immunisation coverage rate for DHB allied staff has increased by 8 percent this year after remaining the same at 61 percent for the past three years. This year Northland, Tairāwhiti and West Coast achieved the 80 percent target for this occupational group while Wairarapa increased its coverage by 36 percent.

**Figure 8: Health care assistants’ influenza immunisation coverage by DHB 2018–2019**

Health care assistants are a new group that was added to the reporting for DHB HCW influenza coverage in 2018. Auckland, Counties Manukau, Northland and Tairāwhiti exceeded the 80 percent target in this group. South Canterbury and Taranaki increased their coverage in this group by 22 and 24 percent respectively.
The 2019 total influenza immunisation coverage rate for other DHB employees increased by 4 percent in 2019. Tairāwhiti and West Coast achieved 80 percent for this group. Canterbury increased coverage in this group by 10 percent.
## Appendix 1: DHB health care worker influenza immunisation coverage rates 2016–2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District Health Boards</th>
<th>Nurses</th>
<th>Doctors</th>
<th>Midwives</th>
<th>Allied staff</th>
<th>Health care assistants</th>
<th>Other employees</th>
<th>Total coverage</th>
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Appendix 2: 2019 DHB health care worker influenza immunisation coverage by occupation (in alphabetical order)

Figure 10: Auckland DHB 2019 workforce influenza immunisation coverage rates
Figure 11: Bay of Plenty DHB 2019 workforce influenza immunisation coverage rates

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Figure 18: MidCentral DHB 2019 workforce influenza immunisation coverage rates
Figure 19: Nelson–Marlborough DHB 2019 workforce influenza immunisation coverage rates

Figure 20: Northland DHB 2019 workforce influenza immunisation coverage rates
Southern DHB achieved overall coverage of 71 percent but did not provide a breakdown of coverage by occupation.
Figure 23: Taranaki DHB 2019 workforce influenza immunisation coverage rates

Figure 24: Waikato DHB 2019 workforce influenza immunisation coverage rates
Figure 25: Wairarapa DHB 2019 workforce influenza immunisation coverage rates

Figure 26: Waitematā DHB 2019 workforce influenza immunisation coverage rates
Figure 27: West Coast DHB 2019 workforce influenza immunisation coverage rates

Figure 28: Whanganui DHB 2019 workforce influenza immunisation coverage rates