



SITREP 07

NATIONAL MEASLES OUTBREAK 2019

Issued: **1500 hrs, 4 SEPTEMBER 2019**

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New information in red text

All information is current as of **1300hrs 4 September 2019**

National Situation

1. In the last two weeks (21 August to 4 September) there have been **256** cases of measles reported in New Zealand.
2. From 1 January 2019 to **4 September** 2019 there have been **991** confirmed cases of measles notified across New Zealand (as at 0830hrs 4 September) (*Appendix 1*).

Auckland Situation

3. There is a significant measles outbreak in the Auckland region which commenced in March 2019. In the last two weeks there have been **228** cases notified in the Auckland region. As at **4 September** 2019, there have been **821** confirmed cases of measles in this region – **567** of which have occurred in Counties Manukau District Health Board (CMDHB) (*Appendix 2*). This is an increase of nine cases since Executive Summary 02 provided on Tuesday 3 September.
4. Laboratory analysis of measles cases show that the outbreak in Auckland is actually several outbreaks, caused by several different genotypes of the virus.
5. The Auckland outbreaks began in West Auckland, but are now mainly occurring in South Auckland, Counties Manukau. In South Auckland, the cases have been mainly in the 0–4 and 20–29 year age groups and predominately in the Pacific population.
6. Thirty eight percent of cases in the Auckland region have been hospitalised. This proportion is higher than in previous New Zealand outbreaks, where approximately 30 percent of cases have been hospitalised. There are no clear reasons to account for this increase in hospitalisation.
7. The majority of cases have been in unvaccinated people, or in those who do not know their vaccination status.
8. There have been no deaths associated with this outbreak.
9. From 1 February 2019 to 31 August, 68,610 doses of the MMR vaccine have been distributed in the Auckland region.

10. Based on the National Immunisation Register, 50,639 doses of the MMR vaccine have been administered in the Auckland region from 1 February 2019 to 30 August 2019. 35,222 doses were given in the Auckland region from 1 January 2018 to 30 August 2018. This is an increase of 44%.
11. In Counties Manukau there has been a 25.7% increase in the number of children aged 10 months – 20 months receiving their first MMR vaccine from May 2019 to 23 August 2019, compared to same time period in 2018.

Data collection

12. Information is currently being sourced from the Institute of Environmental Science and Research (ESR) database, EpiSurv. This is the national database for notifiable diseases. EpiSurv provides near real-time information on notifiable diseases in New Zealand. The near real-time data is collated and analysed by ESR on behalf of the Ministry of Health.
13. For measles, laboratories are required to notify confirmed measles cases directly to EpiSurv. Once the regional public health unit (PHU) processes the laboratory notification, a case is automatically created in EpiSurv. Further information, such as geocoding and immunisation status, needs to be added separately by the PHU based on notification information from GPs and any follow up. Provided that PHUs process these laboratory notifications promptly (which is currently the case) the EpiSurv information can be used as the single source of information.
14. While laboratory notifications of measles are prompt, PHUs do not normally function for notification over the weekend. This may result in a false surge in notifications on a Monday.
15. Public Health Units outside of Auckland are being encouraged to manage measles cases and their contacts as per protocol, with isolation, contact tracing and quarantine to stop the spread of disease. Cases outside of Auckland are all currently linked to travel to or from the Metropolitan Auckland area, or importation from overseas.

Key Actions

Auckland Regional Public Health Service

16. The Auckland region has put in place a number of strategies to increase the population immunity against measles:
 - lowering the age of the first MMR vaccine in the Auckland region from age 15 months to 12 months
 - active recall of children who have not been vaccinated
 - opportunistic vaccination of older children and young adults when attending primary care
 - using outreach services
 - opportunistic vaccination at large medical centres and after hours clinics in Counties Manukau
 - public messaging on the outbreak about who is at risk and how to get vaccinated.

17. Auckland Regional Public Health Service (ARPHS) is working with local organisations regarding major events. It is also working with Mangere Refugee Resettlement Centre to protect its vulnerable population.
18. Particular effort is being made to vaccinate children, Pacific people, and those aged between 15 and 29 in the Auckland region to minimise the impact of this outbreak. Those outside of this region should follow the National Immunisation Schedule, except babies 12 months or older who are travelling to Auckland, who can bring their first MMR vaccination, usually given at 15 months, forward to 12 months.

Counties Manukau District Health Board

19. Outreach vaccination is occurring in the CMDHB area. This involves active recall of children under five who may have missed or are delayed in getting their MMR vaccines. In the Auckland region, this also includes people not engaged or enrolled with primary care. Additional clinics have been set up to opportunistically vaccinate the unimmunised population.
20. Drop-in clinics in Auckland are running Monday to Friday from 9am till 4pm at Clendon Shopping Centre in Manurewa and daily from 9am till 4pm at the Manukau SuperClinic. Middlemore Hospital Emergency Department is also performing opportunistic vaccination. However, the general public is not encouraged to attend ED just for a vaccination.
21. This coming weekend community drop-in clinics will also be at:
 - Te Puke o Tara Community Centre, 20 Newbury Street, Otara, from 9am-4pm.
 - Mangere Community Health Centre, Level 1, 10 Waddon Place, Mangere, from 9am-4pm.
22. Drop-in clinic attendance is expected to rise in the coming days as people become more aware of their location.
23. This extra effort is expected to increase immunisation rates across hard to reach populations who do not typically access vaccinations through primary care. The population groups accessing these clinics are being monitored and assessed on a regular basis. The approach may be adjusted to maximise output.
24. CMDHB has now set up a webpage which will be regularly updated with the latest information on where and when people can get vaccinated.
<https://countiesmanukau.health.nz/for-patients-and-visitors/measles/>
25. Data on these additional vaccination clinics has been provided by CMDHB (*Appendix 3*).

Ministry of Health

26. On Friday 30 August the Ministry of Health activated the National Health Coordination Centre (NHCC).
27. The Institute of Environmental Science and Research (ESR) are part of this structure and will work within the response team to provide intelligence on measles cases across the country and assess the epidemiology of the situation.

28. At this stage the Ministry is not recommending cancellation of major events, however event organisers are encouraged to work closely with their local DHB and consider the risks associated with the current measles outbreak to their participants.
29. The Ministry convened an urgent meeting of its expert advisory group on 3 September. This group consisted of subject matter experts from the sector and the Ministry. They were asked to provide advice on the current measles situation and further actions that could be taken.
30. The expert advisory group is scheduled to convene again on 10 September to consider actions that could be implemented by the end of the year. Vaccine availability, impact on existing services and cost implications will be taken into consideration for all options.
31. PHARMAC is in contact with ProPharma which is responsible for regional distribution of vaccines. ProPharma is aware of the increase in demand and aims to ensure all branches are holding appropriate stock levels.
32. ProPharma Auckland can access stock from the National Vaccine store on the same day of order.
33. ProPharma has increased resources dedicated to vaccine distribution. In Auckland resources have been increased three fold.
34. PHARMAC is encouraging vaccinators to be aware of the increased demand and to keep a close eye on their stock levels.
35. A daily teleconference with ARPHS, ADHB, CMDHB, Waitemata DHB, and the Ministry has been set up in order to ensure key actions are being communicated.

Public Information Management / Media

36. The Ministry website is being continually updated with new information.
37. Views on the Ministry of Health measles webpages have increased significantly in the past two weeks. From 26 August to 1 September, there have been 45,171 total hits on measles related webpages. 63.5% of the browsing sessions originated in Auckland.
38. Media interest continues to be extremely high across the Ministry of Health, PHARMAC and DHBs.
39. A critical interest area (multiple queries) is around vaccine supply and stock availability. Lines have been supplied by the Ministry of Health and PHARMAC. Other queries received include continued interest in the role of pharmacists as vaccinators (Pharmacy Today), and Newshub (TV3) wanting to talk to people with lived experience of the recent outbreak.
40. Dr William Rainger from Auckland Regional Public Health Service and representatives from CMDHB will be giving press conferences at 1400hrs on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday this week.

41. The Plunket Facebook Live event occurred on Monday 2 September at 2000hrs, which involved discussing measles and answering questions. The event was well received, and is estimated to have reached 21,580 people. 904 people engaged in the video, and there were 488 comments. 52.7% of viewers were from Auckland.
42. All agencies, including the Ministry, will continue to focus on joined up messaging, shared communications and exploring ways to proactively push vaccination messages and health awareness.

Phone lines

43. The National Telehealth Service (Healthline) reported that in the 24 hour period that ended midnight 4 September, 1,654 calls were answered. This is the highest number of calls answered by the service in any 24 hour period.
44. During the period above, 112 symptomatic measles calls were provided with a clinical triage – 1% were sent to ED, 11% after hours clinics, 49% to general practice, and 22% were provided with self-care advice. Healthline data will continue to be analysed for region specific insights.
45. The IMAC phone lines are experiencing high call volumes. On 3 September IMAC received 390 calls. IMAC now plan to operate their 0800 IMMUNE phone lines this weekend due to excessive demand.
46. PlunketLine is also experiencing increased call volumes. Table 1 shows the increase of calls to PlunketLine since Friday 30 August.

Day	Increase on calls from previous day
Friday 30 August	Increase of 51%
Saturday 31 August	Increase of 26%
Sunday 1 September	Increase of 35%
Monday 2 September	Increase of 30%
Tuesday 3 September	Increase of 37%

Next situation report

The next report will be an executive summary via email at **1100** hrs on **Thursday 5 September** 2019.

The next situation report will be via email at **1500** hrs on **Friday 6 September** 2019.

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Appendix 1. Cases per DHB in New Zealand

DHB	Cumulative Cases - 1 January 2019 to 4 September 2019	Cases in the last 14 days	Status
Northland	34	11	Isolated cases and family cluster linked to Auckland outbreak
Waitemata	143	24	Outbreak ongoing
Auckland	111	47	Outbreak ongoing
Counties Manukau	567	157	Outbreak ongoing
Waikato	23	6	Isolated cases
Lakes	8	3	Isolated cases
Bay of Plenty	28	1	Isolated cases
Tairāwhiti	0	0	-
Taranaki	6	3	Isolated cases
Hawke's Bay	3	0	Isolated cases
Whanganui	0	0	-
MidCentral	2	1	Isolated cases
Hutt Valley	7	0	Isolated cases
Capital and Coast	12	1	Isolated cases
Wairarapa	1	0	Isolated cases
Nelson-Marlborough	0	0	-
West Coast	0	0	-
Canterbury	41	0	Isolated cases, previous outbreak declared over
South Canterbury	1	0	Isolated cases
Southern	4	2	Isolated cases
Total	991	256	

Appendix 2

Figure 1. Cases of measles in the Auckland region to 4 September 2019

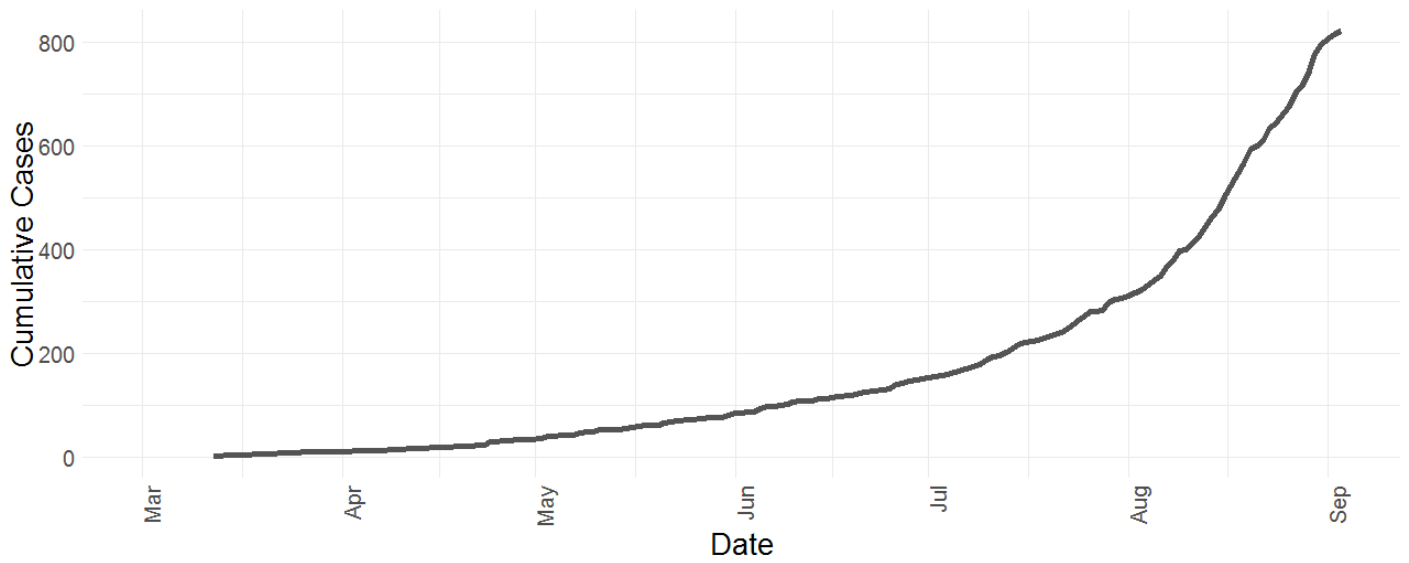


Figure 2. Exponential modelling of cases in Auckland per week up to 15 September

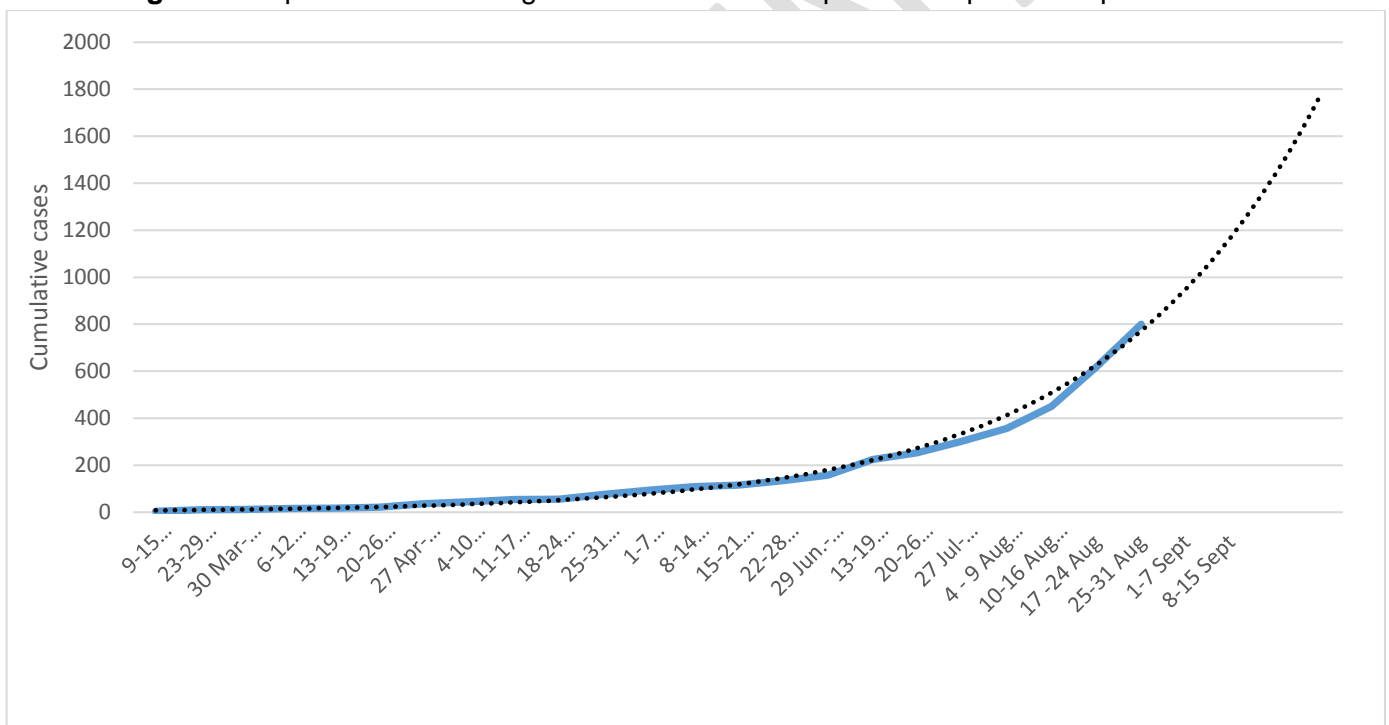


Figure 3. Cases of measles per DHB in Auckland since March 2019

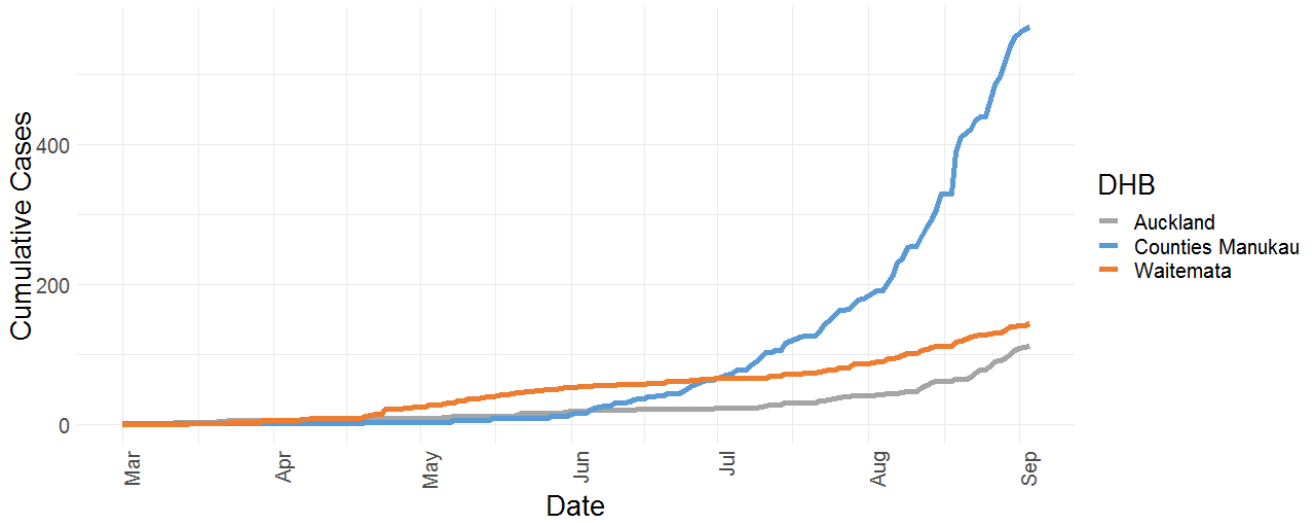
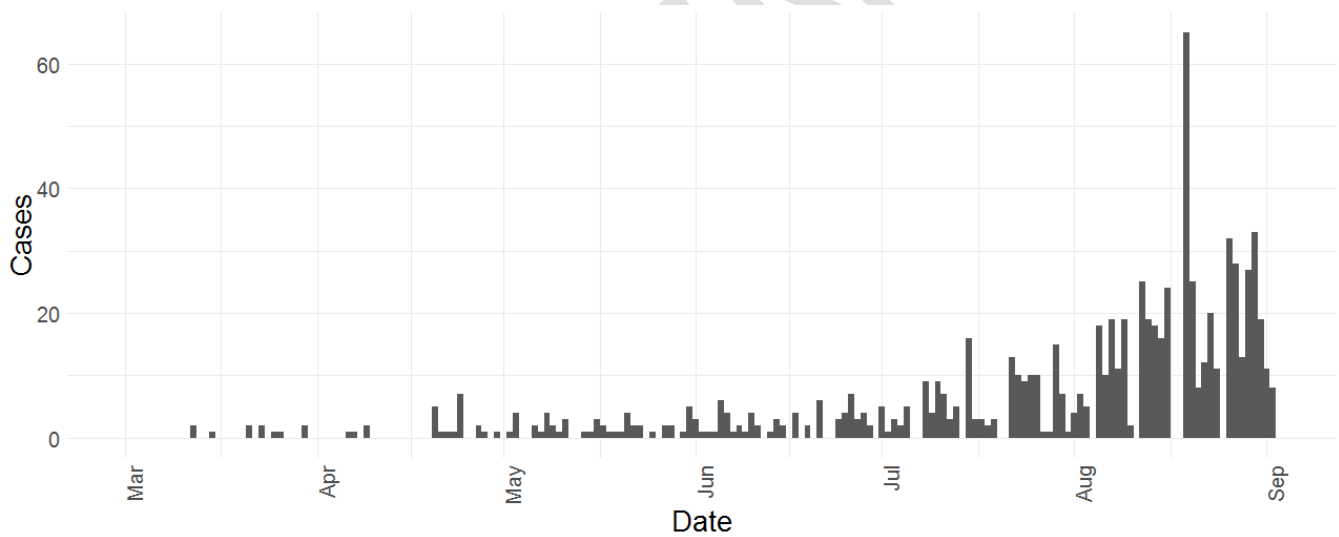


Figure 4. Number of cases of measles confirmed per day. *Please note that cases over the weekend are normally cumulatively notified to the Ministry on a Monday.*



Appendix 3. CMDHB vaccination clinic daily data

1. Vaccination Clinic Daily Data - Middlemore Hospital Opportunistic Vaccination Clinic ED

Date (Date/time of clinic operations)	Number of vaccines administered 0-4yrs			Number of vaccines administered 5-14 years			Number of vaccines administered 15-29 years			Number of vaccines administered 29+ years			Total	Adverse Event Reported (Y/N and detail)
	Maori	Pacific	Other	Maori	Pacific	Other	Maori	Pacific	Other	Maori	Pacific	Other		
23/09/19					1		2	2		1	3		9	N
24/9/19					1		1	3			2	8	15	N
25/8/19								6	1	1	1	2	11	N
26/8/19						1	3		2	2		1	9	N
27/8/19					1			1	3			3	8	N
28/8/19						1		7	2		3	1	14	N
29/8/19							3			2	3		8	N
30/8/19				1			2	2	4		6	2	17	N
31/8/19			1				2	1	7	2	1	9	23	N
1/9/19			1					3	4	3	1	6	18	N
2/9/19	1	1						4	6		2	8	22	N
3/9/19		1				2	3	1	4	1	4	13	29	N
TOTAL:													183	

2. Vaccination Clinic Daily Data - Middlemore Hospital Corridor Clinic Start 3/9/19

Date (Date/time of clinic operations)	Number of vaccines administered 0-4yrs			Number of vaccines administered 5-14 years			Number of vaccines administered 15-29 years			Number of vaccines administered 29+ years			Total	Adverse Event Reported (Y/N and detail)
	Maori	Pacific	Other	Maori	Pacific	Other	Maori	Pacific	Other	Maori	Pacific	Other		
3/9/19	1						1	2		4	7	18	33	N
TOTAL:													33	

3. Outreach Clinics Daily Data – Outreach, Plunket/Clendon

Date (Date/time of clinic operations)	Number of vaccines administered 0-4yrs			Number of vaccines administered 5-14 years			Number of vaccines administered 15-29 years			Number of vaccines administered 29+ years			Total	Adverse Event Reported (Y/N and detail)
	Maori	Pacific	Other	Maori	Pacific	Other	Maori	Pacific	Other	Maori	Pacific	Other		
23/8/19	2	1	0										3	
24/8/19	3	7	4										14	
26/8/19	3	2	0				1	2		1			9	
27/8/19	2	2	0					6			1		11	
28/8/19	5	4	0				4	4			2	1	20	
29/8/19	3		2				7	7	3	13	16	17	68	
30/8/19		1	1	4	1			6		3	5	6	27	
31/8/19										2		2	4	
1/9/19														
2/9/19	4	1	2	1	9	4	3	12	4	5	7	11	63	
3/9/19	8	2	2	1	6	1	4	8		8	14	20	74	
TOTAL:													293	

4. Outreach Clinics Daily Data - Manukau Super Clinic

Date (Date/time of clinic operations)	Number of vaccines administered 0-4yrs			Number of vaccines administered 5-14 years			Number of vaccines administered 15-29 years			Number of vaccines administered 29+ years			Total	Adverse Event Reported (Y/N and detail)
	Maori	Pacific	Other	Maori	Pacific	Other	Maori	Pacific	Other	Maori	Pacific	Other		
30/8/19		1	3			1	2	2	4	6	7	25	51	
31/8/19	3	7	5	1	4	5	4	8	6	7	19	39	108	
1/9/19		1	6			1	6	6	13	1	5	58	97	
2/9/19	2	4	11		2	1	8	7	10	8	8	32	93	N
3/9/19	9	10	8		3	5	15	11	38	13	19	93	224	N
TOTAL:													573	

5. Outreach Clinics Daily Data – Free Church of Tonga – One off drop in clinic

Date (Date/time of clinic operations)	Number of vaccines administered 0-4yrs			Number of vaccines administered 5-14 years			Number of vaccines administered 15-29 years			Number of vaccines administered 29+ years			Total	Adverse Event Reported (Y/N and detail)
	Maori	Pacific	Other	Maori	Pacific	Other	Maori	Pacific	Other	Maori	Pacific	Other		
31/8/19	1	3	2		5			16	7	2	19	13	68	N
TOTAL:													68	

6. Outreach Clinics Daily Data – Manurewa High School – One off clinic

Date (Date/time of clinic operations)	Number of vaccines administered 0-4yrs			Number of vaccines administered 5-14 years			Number of vaccines administered 15-29 years			Number of vaccines administered 29+ years			Total	Adverse Event Reported (Y/N and detail)
	Maori	Pacific	Other	Maori	Pacific	Other	Maori	Pacific	Other	Maori	Pacific	Other		
3/9/19				4	3	6	8	22	30	2	5	11	91	N
TOTAL:													91	