Dear Colleagues

The national immunisation goal is 95 percent of children will be fully immunised at two years of age by 30 June 2012.

As of 31 March 2012 (quarter three) coverage was 92.2 percent and the national coverage for both Pacific and Asian two year old children was 96 percent. This is a dramatic improvement since 2007 when total coverage was only 67 percent.

Congratulations to everyone for the tremendous effort you have all made in dramatically improving our immunisation coverage. The whole general practice team, including practice nurses, GPs, practice managers and receptionists play an important role in supporting families to protect their children through immunisation.

We have learnt how quality systems support this improved performance, and how general practice supported by the NIR administrator, outreach immunisers, immunisation coordinators, midwives and WellChild/Tamariki Ora providers have all made important contributions.

The target is to have 95 percent coverage by the end of this quarter. There are some practical suggestions:

- Refresh your recall lists and repeat your recall of any children turning two in the next 2 months
- Contact your local immunisation coordinator to see what assistance they might be able to offer your practice
- Refer any families who you are struggling to immunise to your outreach service and consider using the assistance of a Pacific or Maori health provider in your area, if this is appropriate.
- Be opportunistic by offering to immunise children that are not up-to-date and maybe at your Practice for another reason or with other family members.
- Engage with community link sites through your local work and income offices – they will advertise through the community link sites when you are immunising

“The greater danger for most of us lies not in setting our aim too high and falling short; but in setting our aim too low, and achieving our mark.” – Michelangelo

Dr Pat Tuohy

Chief Advisor - Child & Youth Health
Immunisation Target Champion