

17 August 2023

First Aid Training for All Staff - EARLY CLOSING

Next Monday, 21 August, the school will be closing at the earlier time of 1pm so that all our staff can update their first aid training. Bus pupils that can't be picked up at this time will be supervised until the buses arrive at their usual time.

We apologise for any inconvenience but having staff trained in first aid is essential.

Sick children

There are a lot of children coming to school at present with coughs, sore throats, stuffy noses and similar. Some classrooms have a lot of tamariki who are not feeling their best and it is no fun for them or the others in class. We know there are lingering coughs out there but please be extra vigilant at the moment and if your child is not at their best then please keep them home.

Throat swabbing & Strep A

There is quite a lot of Strep A about at the moment. If your tamariki have sore throats we recommend getting them throat swabbed asap. Our local PHN, Kate Townsend (Thursdays) and Ngati Hine Health Hub (Tuesdays) visit the school on alternate weeks. They are all able to take throat swabs if any tamariki are complaining of sore throats. Outside these days please go to your Dr and not wait for school checks.

Please let us know if you do not consent to your child having a sore throat assessment and swab by the Public Health Nurse.

Sore Throats Matter Preventing Rheumatic Fever



With winter on its way so are many bugs – we are hearing that a lot of tamariki are getting sore throats – For our Māori and Pacific tamariki sore throats can hurt hearts.

If your tamariki has a sore throat please get a throat swab from your Practice nurse at your GP practice.

Or

At a participating pharmacy if your tamariki are:

- Māori or Pacific
- 4-19 years old

Public Health Nurses in your school are available to offer a throat swab to high-risk tamariki with a sore throat during their school visit.

All children are at risk of developing strep throat however, research has shown that the risk for this leading to Acute Rheumatic fever is predominantly higher in Māori and Pacific tamariki, this is the reason for the eligibility criteria in the throat swabbing programme.

FYI for your kura whanau, pharmacies can now provide treatments for minor things (to cut out cost and GP wait times) see below:

The Minor Health Conditions Service

The Minor Health Conditions Service, part of the 2023 Winter Preparedness Plan, is a new initiative that aims to help relieve pressure on general practice and hospital services in regions recognised as having consistent and persistent hospital flow challenges and wider system pressures.

The scheme covers participating pharmacies in Te Tai Tokerau (Northland), Auckland, Counties Manukau, Waitematā, Bay of Plenty, MidCentral, Wellington and Hutt Valley, Canterbury, Invercargill, Gore, and Southland and is scheduled to start Monday 12 June and will run until Saturday 30 September.

Why is this scheme important?

Proper management of minor health conditions can prevent more serious conditions from developing or prevent further costly treatment.

What is the role of pharmacists in the scheme?

Pharmacists will be able to help people more with health conditions that can be managed with advice, self-care and in some cases, medicines provided in pharmacy.

What is a minor health condition?

The following minor health conditions are included in the Minor Health Conditions Service:

- Acute diarrhoea
- Dehydration
- Eye inflammation and infections
- Scabies
- Headlice
- Pain and fever
- Eczema/Dermatitis
- Minor skin infections

Who is it for?

The Minor Health Conditions Service is for:

- Māori or Pacific
- Children under 14 years of age, or whānau members of a child with similar symptoms.
- Community Service Card (CSC) holders

Find out more; [Community Pharmacy Minor Health Conditions Service – Te Whatu Ora - Health New Zealand](#)

Kate Townsend

Public Health Nurse

School Based and Community Clinical Services

Mid North Te Tai Tokerau