

Child & Family Service

Waitematā - Northern Regional Public Health

Newsletter 2025

Kia ora koutou,

The Child & Family Service, part of the National Public Health Service, is a free, community-based primary health service dedicated to supporting children, young people, and their families. Our multidisciplinary health team works to provide care that benefits both the wider school community and individual children and their whānau. Our services include individual health assessments, health promotion, addressing identified health needs and inquiries, immunisation, hearing and vision screening, paediatric ear nursing, collaboration with school and community multidisciplinary teams, and helping to prevent the spread of infectious diseases. We are available to all schools and focus our resources in the areas of highest need. Ngā mihi, Community Nurse Managers and team

Public Health Nurses

Public health nurses (PHNs) are registered nurses who work with children aged 4 – 18, and their whānau, in school, home and community environments. They visit schools regularly, liaise between home and school, and work in partnership with families to improve, protect, and promote the health of children and young people. Schools commonly refer for:

- Absenteeism (health related)
- Access to Health / Social Services
- Allergy / Anaphylaxis
- Asthma / Bronchiectasis
- Child Health Assessment
- Dental services
- Eczema, Skin Sores, Headlice
- Growth and Development
- Hearing / Vision
- Rheumatic Fever Management
- Sore throats
- Supporting health needs in schools
- Wetting / Soiling
- Youth Health

School Immunisation Programme

Immunisation is offered to all Year 7 & Year 8 students. Year 7 Boostrix vaccinations help boost immunity to diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (whooping cough). Year 8 Gardasil vaccinations protect against Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) infection. PHNs also offer catch-up immunisations for other vaccine-preventable diseases such as Measles. In 2024, PHNs administered over 14,300 vaccines in schools across the Waitematā region. This programme continues in 2025. More details can be found on our website.



Paediatric Ear Nurses

We have credentialed Ear Nurses who offer clinic appointments in the community to children and young people between 3 months - 18 years of age, or up to 21 years if the child has special needs and is still at school. Ear Nurses have expertise in assessing and treating children with ear health problems including linking with other healthcare providers. A referral from the GP to the Paediatric Ear Nurse is the best way to access this service.

Vision & Hearing Technicians

Our Vision & Hearing Technicians (VHT) provide skilled screening using fun games for children in pre-schools, clinics and home settings, and some primary and intermediate schools. They conduct the vision and hearing screening as part of the B4 school check programme. Additional screening is done for new students not previously checked. VHT's also respond to referrals where concerns are suspected. If you are concerned about a child's eyesight and/or hearing, please contact us. They can be seen at school or a clinic.

How to refer

Parent / Guardian discussion and consent for referral obtained prior to referral ✓

Send completed referral form to:

NORTH

childandfamily.north@waitematadhb.govt.nz

WEST

Child.FamilyWestWTH@waitematadhb.govt.nz

If you're unsure or have any queries, call us!

North (09) 486 8996, Option #2, #0 for Reception

West (09) 838 1733

For more information on our service, please go to the following link or scan the QR code:

<https://www.healthpoint.co.nz/public/paediatrics/waitemata-dhb-child-family-services/>



Useful Contacts

- For immediate and urgent health concerns about a child, call an Ambulance 111
- For care and protection concerns about a child, call 0508 ED ASSIST (0508 332 774)
- For concerns about communicable diseases, call Auckland Regional Public health (09) 623 4600
- To order free Health Education Resources **www.healthed.govt.nz**
- For free health and illness advice, families can call Healthline 0800 611 116 (interpreters are available).
- To make informed decisions around Immunisations, call 0800 IMMUNE (466 863)
- For updated school Asthma resources, visit **www.asthmafoundation.org.nz**
- For updated Anaphylaxis resources, visit **www.allergy.org.nz**