

# FLU 2026

**HNZ Winter 2026**

**0 - 4 years Flu list project**

# 0-4 years flu list

## Introduction

- Health NZ has produced lists in March 2026 from discharge coding of eligible children to enable the offer of free flu vaccine.
- Lists have been supplied to PHOs and Regions by Health NZ on 20/03/2026
- Includes children 4 years of age and younger who have been:
  - hospitalised for respiratory illness, and/or
  - meet criteria for eligible health conditions
- Lists produced and made available in the Northern region to PHOs since 2018
- Data from Northern region show increased uptake in this age cohort compared to nationally.
- Recent technology improvements have allowed us to offer these lists nationally

## Indicator Definition Sheet

Scorecard ID	
External ID	
Indicator name	<i>Special Immunisation (Flu) for paediatric patients</i>
Scorecard/report	<i>SLM reporting, CWF</i>
Description	<i>Uptake of influenza immunisation for children aged under five years who have been hospitalised for respiratory illness or other at risk condition. Eligible cohort identified as at 1st March each year. Progress reports as at 31<sup>st</sup> May (Updated lists resent to PHOs with vaccinated removed + uptake summary), 30<sup>th</sup> June (uptake summary only) &amp; 30<sup>th</sup> September (uptake summary only). Final coverage uptake is reported at 31<sup>st</sup> December.</i>
Rationale/interpretation (state target origin e.g. local or MoH prescribed)	<i>Special immunisation (flu) for children hospitalised with a respiratory condition or other at risk condition is one of the contributory measures that links to the Ambulatory Sensitive Hospitalisation (ASH) rates for 0-4 year olds SLM.</i>
Supplementary information	
Numerator definition	<i>The total number of children aged four years and under as at the 1<sup>st</sup> of July who have been hospitalised for respiratory illness or other at risk condition within the past five years prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> of March, domiciled in the Metro Auckland area who have received at least one dose of influenza vaccine by 31<sup>st</sup> December.</i> <i>Numerator can also be by ethnicity as defined by NHI / Hospital System / NIR.</i>
Numerator inclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Domiciled in Auckland, Waitemata or Counties DHB</li><li>• Influenza doses recorded on NIR</li></ul> <i>Note: Children 6 months to 9 years of age receiving an influenza vaccine for the first time should receive two doses. It will be considered that every child who has received at least one dose of influenza vaccine can be included in the numerator.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hospital admission in previous 5 years (as of the 1<sup>st</sup> of March) in metro Auckland for respiratory condition or other at risk condition as per coding</li><li>• Aged more than 6 months and 0 days as at 1<sup>st</sup> April each year</li></ul>

# Why?

**Influenza vaccine is not universally funded for children.**

**0-4 year olds have highest rates of hospitalisation of any age cohort for influenza**

**The project aims to support providers identifying and delivering funded flu vaccine to this cohort**

## **Relevant Pharmac criteria for funded vaccine:**

- children 4 years of age and under who have been hospitalised for respiratory illness or have a history of significant respiratory illness
- People aged 6month to 64 years who have an eligible health condition

## **Relevant flu objectives this work supports :**

### **Co-administration/ concomitant**

Offer flu vaccine with any other vaccines people are eligible for. *(new 2026).*

### **6 months to 4 years**

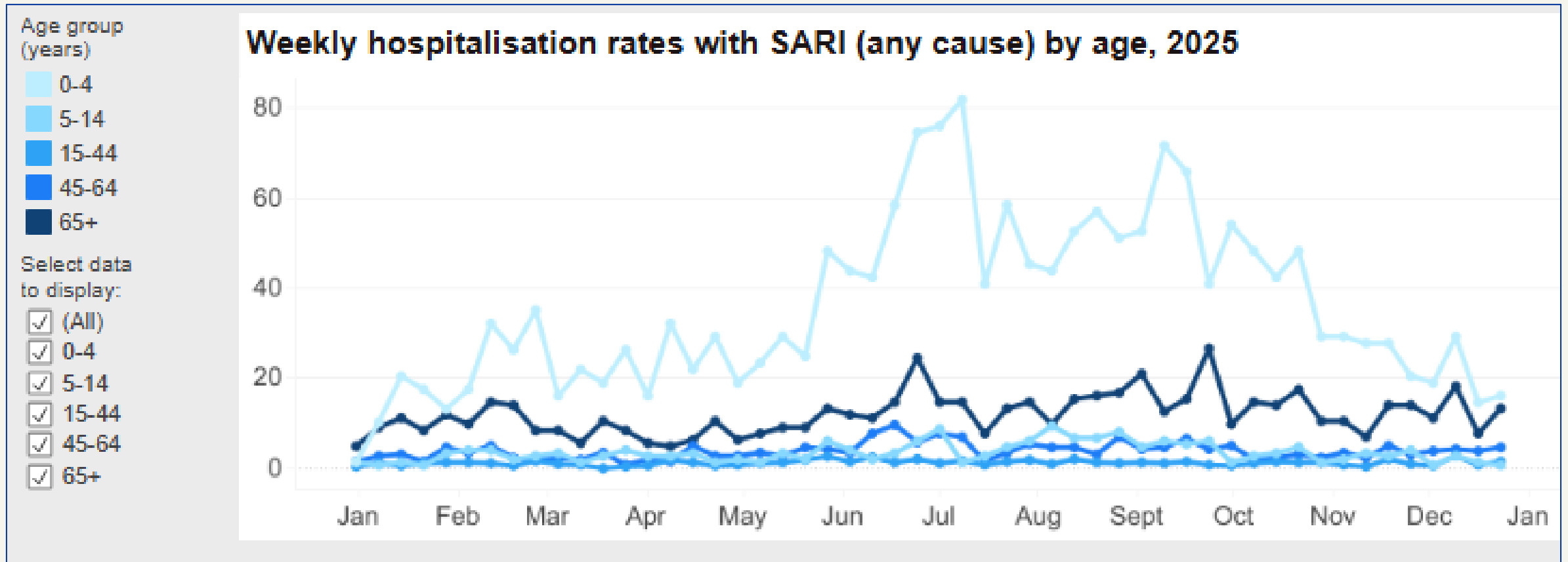
Offer flu after hospital discharge following respiratory illness.



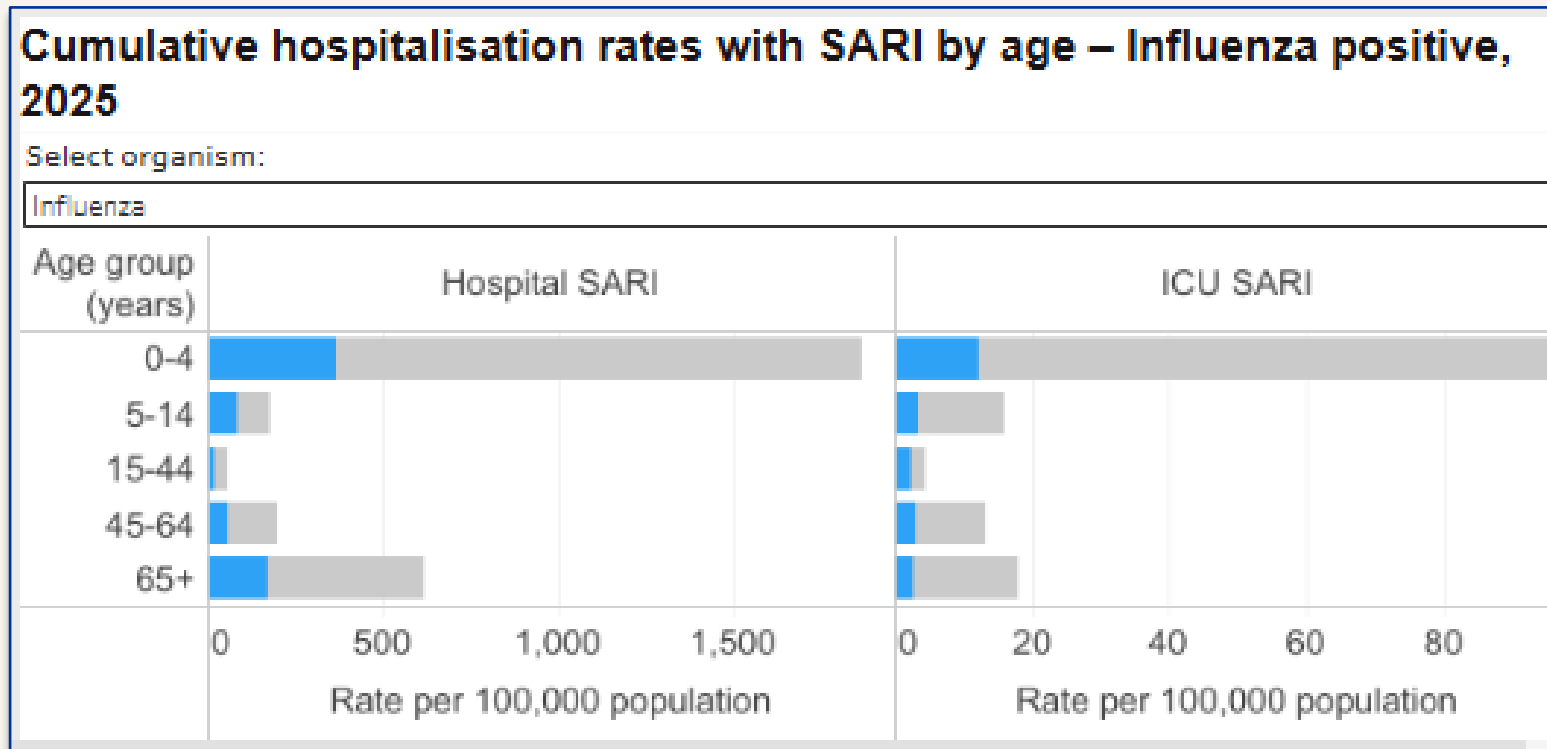
# **Evidence to support project**

**The following slides show  
data to demonstrate impact  
of influenza on tamariki and  
why the project has been  
implemented this year**

# Respiratory Virus Hospitalisation 2025–by age



# Respiratory Virus ICU 2025 by age



# Respiratory Virus Burden 2025–Equity focus

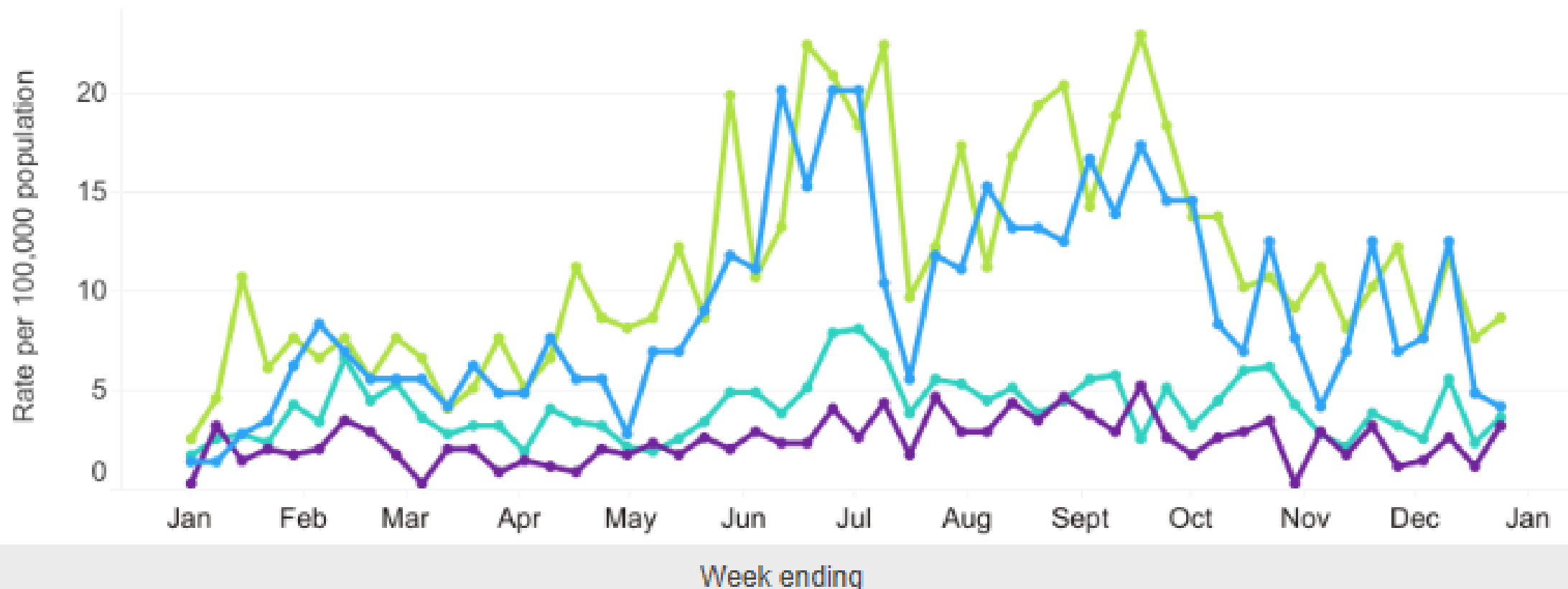
Ethnicity

- Māori
- Paci...
- Asian
- Other

Select d...  
to display:

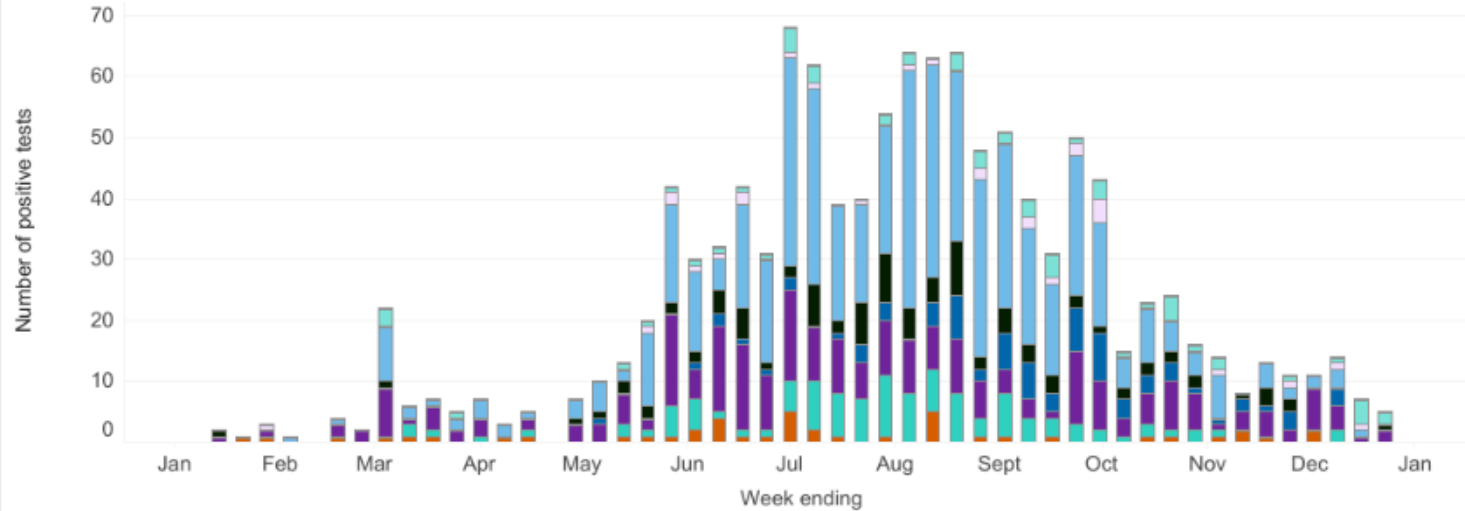
- (All)
- Māori
- Pa...
- Asian
- Other

## Weekly hospitalisation rates with SARI (any cause) by ethnicity, 2025

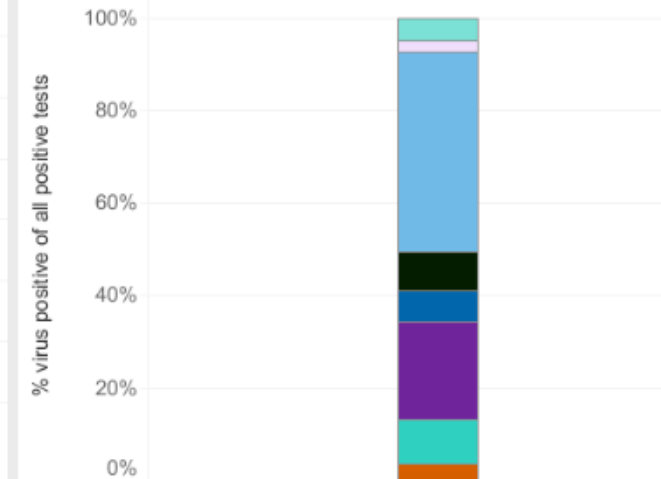


# Respiratory Virus Burden 2025

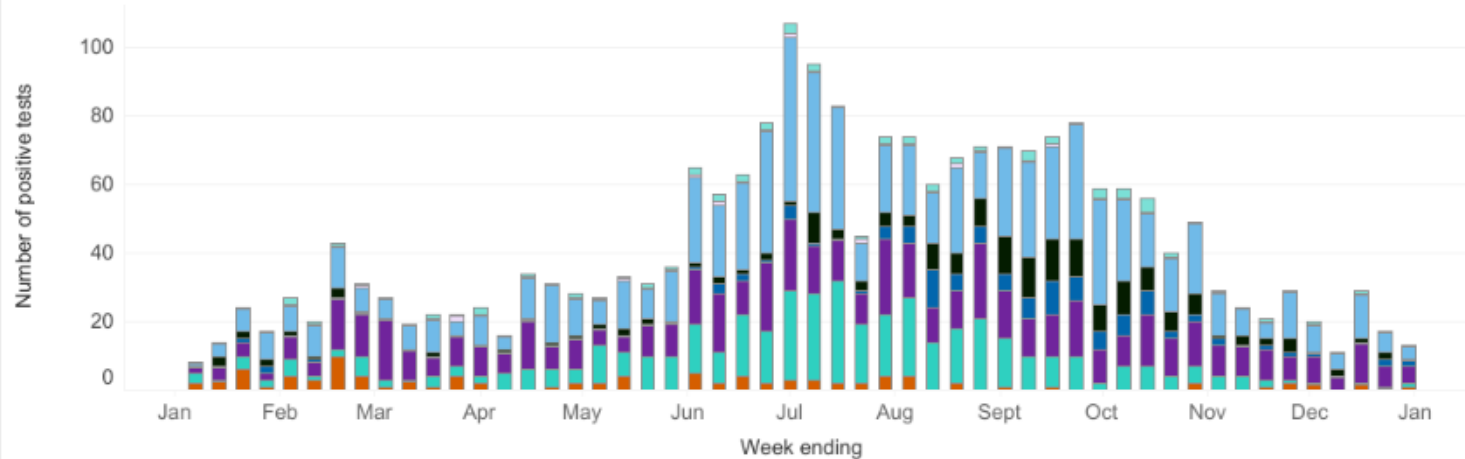
Weekly viruses detected through sentinel GP ILI sampling, 2025



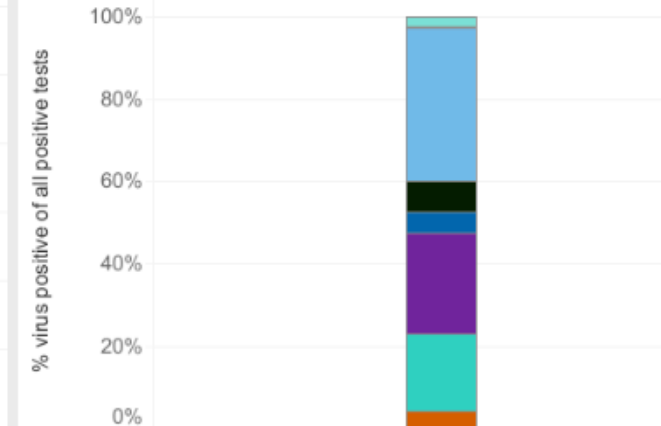
Cumulative proportion of positive tests by virus - sentinel GP, 2025



Weekly viruses detected through sentinel hospital SARI sampling, 2025



Cumulative proportion of positive tests by virus - sentinel hospital, 2025





# Project details

# 2025 data on 0-4 year uptake (National)

## National data shows about 20% of children in this cohort are eligible In 2025:

- Of the approx. 250,000 children in the total cohort 0- 4 years:
  - About 25,000 vaccines were delivered to this age group to about 12,000 children (2 dose schedule for majority of children in this age group)
- This accounts for about 5% of the cohort; it is unknown if they were eligible or unfunded (likely a mix)
- Northern uptake was approx. 13 % for this cohort, supported by the flu list information
- We are aiming to replicate or improve this uplift in vaccinations with the provision of flu lists and sector support in delivery

# 2026 data

- Around 45,000 children are in the eligible 0-4 flu cohort supplied data, around 20% of all children 0-4 years.

Region	Enrolled	Unenrolled	Grand Total
⊕ Northern	16,696	753	17,449
⊕ Te Manawa Taki	10,200	519	10,719
⊕ Te Ikaroa	7,996	375	8,371
⊕ Te Waipounamu	8,014	200	8,214
⊕ Overseas	18	182	200
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>42,924</b>	<b>2,029</b>	<b>44,953</b>

Ethnicity	Enrolled	Unenrolled	Grand Total
Maori	14,895	815	15,710
Other	14,457	542	14,999
Pacific Peoples	6,873	467	7,340
Asian	6,699	205	6,904
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>42,924</b>	<b>2,029</b>	<b>44,953</b>

# Other considerations

- PHOs are responsible for their enrolled populations and can use the lists of children enrolled in their PHO as they deem appropriate to support providers.
- If PHOs wish to share these lists outside of primary care, they would need to meet the requirements of their information sharing agreements when passing on information shared to them by Health New Zealand.
- The regions are responsible for unenrolled populations. The regions will receive unenrolled lists which they will determine how to manage and may engage providers to support this, again meeting the information sharing agreements.
- The data set includes NHI, date of birth and date of extraction. It does not include the qualifying condition which has been determined from the indicator definition document (available by request) as per privacy requirements.
- The data set extraction is a one-off for the 2026 flu season and does not include Tamariki who become eligible during the season.
- The data set does include some but not all children who are eligible due to a significant respiratory condition but have not been hospitalised (for example children with asthma on a preventative medication). These children would need to be identified within their general practice.

# Privacy requirements:

**HNZ Privacy review has been completed, and the project can proceed with the following points to be adhered to:**

- The information is provided solely for the purpose of offering and facilitating funded influenza immunisations to eligible children. It may not be used or disclosed for any other purpose.
- Please ensure that information is kept secure with only appropriate authorised staff access, and that any extracted data is deleted once no longer required for the authorised purpose.



# Operational notes

# Important changes for 2026:

## Observation wait times

The standard post-vaccination wait time is now 15 minutes across all vaccines in Aotearoa, with the option to reduce this to 5 minutes provided set criteria is met, or to extend wait times if considered appropriate. See page 12.

## IMAC resource

[Influenza Children - Factsheets - Immunisation Advisory Centre](#)

**Changes to age cut-off for offering two doses of influenza vaccine to unvaccinated tamariki:** updated guidance now recommends offering two doses of influenza vaccine (at least 4 weeks apart) to previously unvaccinated tamariki aged from **6 months to 3 years inclusive**. Previous guidance applied to those under 9 years of age. See page 9.

*NB children who are severely immunocompromised, receiving influenza vaccine for the first time over the age of 3 years are strongly recommended to be offered two doses at least 4 weeks apart. Refer to the Immunisation Handbook for specific age-based recommendations for these groups. Both doses are funded.*

# Communication to whānau

An e-flyer has been developed to use in emails to whānau

This will be available in the [Immunistation Team Dropbox](#)





# Resources

# Supporting resources

# FLU2026

## Updated Flu collateral

- Consent form
- Fact sheet
- 2026 logo and email signature
- A3 Posters
- Flyers
- Stickers
- Eligibility leaflet / coupon
- Staff lanyard card

- Available for download on Dropbox and HealthEd
- Printed copies available to order for FREE via the Bluestar portal (registration needed).
- Translations and alternate formats will be available from April.



# Opportunity for catch ups?

Ensure all whanau, including parents have had two doses of MMR after the age of 12 mths.



Childhood immunisations Booklet - NIP8848

**NEW!**



Set your tamariki up for a healthy future – te reo Māori version - NIP8965

**Protect tamariki for life. Immunise.**

Age	Immunisations
Pregnancy	Tetanus, Diphtheria, Whooping cough, Hib
6 weeks	1 dose given by birth, under the age of 6 weeks. Rotavirus, Tapeworms, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Whooping cough, Polio, Hib, Hb, Tapeworms, Pneumococcal
3 months	1 dose given by 3 months, under the age of 6 weeks. Rotavirus, Tapeworms, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Whooping cough, Polio, Hib, Hb, Tapeworms, Pneumococcal (second, joint dose)
5 months	Tapeworms, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Whooping cough, Hib, Hb, Tapeworms, Pneumococcal, Meningococcal (second dose)
12 months	Tapeworms, Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Tapeworms, Pneumococcal, Tapeworms, Meningococcal
15 months	Tapeworms, Hib, Tapeworms, Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Tapeworms, Chlamydia
4 years	Tapeworms, Tetanus, Diphtheria, Whooping cough, Hib
9 – 13 years	Tapeworms, Tetanus, Diphtheria, Whooping cough, Hib, Meningococcal (third dose), Hib, Hib (second dose)

**It's free.** For more information visit [info.health.nz/immunisations](http://info.health.nz/immunisations)

Protect tamariki for life - HP8687

# New for 2026 – order from BlueStar / HealthEd



Sticker



Tear off leaflet

## You may be eligible for a free flu vaccine

The flu vaccine is free for people at higher risk of getting very sick, including:

- people aged 65 years and over,
- people aged 6 months and over who have a long term medical condition like diabetes, asthma, or a heart condition,
- pregnant people,
- tamariki (children) aged 4 years and under who have been hospitalised for respiratory illness, or have a history of significant respiratory illness,
- people with mental health conditions, including schizophrenia, major depressive disorder, bipolar disorder, or schizoaffective disorder, or
- people who are currently accessing secondary or tertiary mental health and addiction services.



Lanyard card for kaimahi – download and print from the Dropbox

# Next steps

- The data has been distributed to PHO's and Regions on 20/03/2026
- Regions and PHO's can decide on the best way of reaching these whānau and operationalise accordingly. The prevention immunisation team can support as needed.
- Thank you for your work supporting this initiative to protect our pepi and tamariki and reduce the burden of winter illnesses in primary and secondary care this season.

**Pātai? Please email  
Immunisation@tewhatauora.govt.nz**