Free flu immunisation: Q&A

# What’s happening?

Mahitahi Hauora, Northland’s largest PHO, is funding influenza immunisations for all Māori and Pacific peoples who are not currently eligible for funded immunisation under the National Immunisation Programme.

# Why are Māori and Pacific peoples getting more funding?

Influenza immunisation rates among Māori and Pacific peoples in Northland are much lower than among other ethnicities.

Northland has a high proportion of Māori and Pacific people, which means that low immunisation rates among these groups are a significant public health concern for our region. This affects everyone, because influenza can make people very sick and put our health system under pressure. Getting as many people as possible immunised helps to reduce the spread of flu and demand on general practices and hospitals.

# What about other ethnicities?

The National Immunisation Programme provides free influenza immunisations for priority groups across Aotearoa. These groups include:

* children aged 6 months to 12 years old
* people aged 65 and over
* pregnant people
* Māori and Pacific people over 55
* people with underlying health conditions including heart disease, cancer, diabetes and serious asthma
* people with significant mental illness such as schizophrenia or those currently accessing mental health services.

In addition, some employers offer free immunisation to protect their staff.

If you are not eligible for free flu immunisation under the national programme or through your employer, you can still get immunised, but you may have to pay.

# Who should I contact if I wish to give feedback?

If you wish to give feedback you can contact Mahitahi Hauora at info@mahitahihauora.co.nz or (09) 438 1015.