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Flu vaccination for staff starts today!



Pacific Health Promoter Mata Emile (centre) from Wairarapa Public Health lines up with friends at Cameron Clinic to promote both pandemic preparedness, and influenza vaccination to the Pacific community.

"We've been talking to the community about what they want," said Mata. "It makes good sense to combine these two activities, given the time of year we are at."

Mata has built on the 'Roll up' theme also being used in campaign to increase the number of DHB staff who are vaccinated. She persuaded both Joe Papali'i and Asoiva Malatai to roll up their sleeves with her in preparation for the combined session that will be held at Cameron House on 9 May.

Meanwhile the Infection Control team is gearing up for the first staff vaccination clinic this Friday, 24 April, held in HR. There will be a second clinic the following Wednesday, 29 April. In addition, several 'mobile clinics' are planned in areas where staff find it difficult to leave their area.

Remember, everyone vaccinated gets a free muffin and goes in a draw to win \$100 of book vouchers courtesy of the Sanofi Aventis, the vaccine supplier.

The DHB is also shouting everyone vaccinated a voucher for a specialty coffee or tea at The Cafe. If you have not already put your name down, just phone Lizzie Daniell on 5618. There will be extra vaccine ordered for those who only make their mind up at the last minute, but we'd rather be well prepared!

Wairarapa DHB assists with 1,000 healthier Wairarapa homes

More than a 3,000 Wairarapa people are now living in warmer, drier, healthier homes thanks to a community-wide project to improve the health of Wairarapa people and save energy.

Since it began in March 2004, the Wairarapa Healthy Homes Project has insulated and provided energy efficiency advice to 1,000 households throughout the Wairarapa at little or no cost to the occupants.

Local and national organisations have joined forces to provide more than \$2.3 million invested so far in the insulation work. They include the three Wairarapa district councils, the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA), Wairarapa DHB and Trust House.

Selected through health professionals including Wairarapa Public Health, GPs, Work and Income and social agencies, people with high health needs, particularly respiratory problems, and Community Service Card holders are given priority for the fully-subsidised retrofits.

Wairarapa Healthy Homes steering committee chairman, Bob Francis, said the project was well on the way to achieving a long-term goal of insulating every home in the Wairarapa.

Feedback from project recipients had been hugely positive. National research by the Wellington School of Medicine has shown that after homes were insulated they were warmer and drier, occupants experienced a significant improvement in their health and fewer sick days from work and school were taken.

The Wairarapa project was the first of its kind in New Zealand to attract funding from a DHB. EECA account manager for partnership funding, Mike Fairfield, said the Wairarapa project had been a 'trailblazer' for others throughout New Zealand. "The co-operation between the partners in the Wairarapa project has become a model which we rolled out across the country."

An estimated 375,000 New Zealand homes do not have adequate ceiling insulation and over one million have inadequate underfloor insulation. Homes built before 1977 were not required by law to be insulated. Up to 47% of a home's heat can be lost through ceilings and floors that are not insulated.

Your views needed on draft Child Health Strategy

The blueprint for improving the health of Wairarapa children over the next five to ten years is now in draft form and available for public comment. That means you!

Development of a broad plan to improve child health has so far involved a range of health professionals working in the community and in our hospital as well as others not directly working in health.

"Child health is a priority for Wairarapa DHB and also a national priority," says Wairarapa DHB chief executive, Tracey Adamson, "In developing this strategy we want to make sure the vision, goals and actions that have so far been identified are supported by the wider community."

"We are now seeking wider views and comments on the draft from DHB staff, health providers, community groups, district councils and other interested parties. I encourage staff to have their say."

The strategy recognises that all children in Wairarapa should have equal opportunity to a long and healthy life.

"Much has already been achieved in Wairarapa to improve child health," says Tracey. "Compared with the rest of New Zealand, Wairarapa children have high rates of immunisation and enrolment with medical practices. Wairarapa children have less tooth decay and a higher pass rate for hearing tests at school entry."

Access to child and adolescent mental health services is also better than in many other parts of New Zealand.

"However as a community we can always do better and need to increase the focus and efforts on those with the greatest need."

"Typically, children living in Wairarapa's most deprived areas have the poorest health. We know that these children are more likely to be admitted to hospital for avoidable conditions, more likely to live in homes which are poorly insulated and damp or in a home where someone is a smoker. These same children are also less likely to visit medical centres."

The six goals outlined in the draft strategy aim to ensure that all children:

1. live in an environment that promotes development and learning so that they are securely attached and resilient and reach their full potential;
2. are safe from injury and avoidable death
3. are protected against infectious disease
4. have clean air to breathe
5. are encouraged to be physically active and have a diet that promotes growth, well being and good oral health
6. receive prompt identification of illness, developmental delay and disability, with referral to appropriate and timely treatment and services that support the child and family/whanau.

"These are ambitious goals and to achieve them a community-wide approach is needed involving families, health organisations, other supporting agencies and educators. Great progress has already been made towards a more collaborative approach to health issues and we aim to improve this further," said Tracey.

The strategy discussion document and questions inviting feedback are on the DHB's website www.wairarapa.dhb.org.nz with a link from the 'About Wairarapa DHB' page.

Please contact Lisa Burch ext 9894 with any questions or comments.

Youth Week 23-31 May 2009

Theme: Aroha - Make Time for Youth 2009 ART COMPETITION

Do you know an artistic young person?
What makes them unique?

This could be their relationship with family, community or friends, or could be the impact that their culture or spirituality has had on who they are today.

Their art work could be in a public gallery exhibition or part of an online auction during Youth Week.

Prizes include a \$500 art voucher, an iPod, cellphone and digital camera!!

Visit www.youthline.co.nz
or email youthart@youthline.co.nz
for an application form.

Competition closes 10 May 2009

If you need further info you can't find on the website,
phone CNM Sue Willoughby on 027 480 3693

Easter specials!

While most of us were home relaxing on Easter Sunday, a problem arose at the hospital Switchboard.

The morning shift Operator became unwell. They also happened to be the on call Telephonist. After several telephone calls Judy Dew, who was about to begin her holiday, agreed to come in and cover the morning shift. Problem solved.

Then the afternoon Operator was also unwell and could not come into work. Several phone calls later, no one else was immediately available. Judy offered to work through the full day. 16 hours later a tired but upbeat Judy began her holiday.

There were further problems with gaps on the duty roster but each time, staff came forward and filled them.

"I'm just so very proud of all the staff in Health records, both permanent staff and those on the casual pool," said Manager Fred Wheeler.

"This is the second time we have had a fairly major crisis of illness impacting on our capacity to maintain switchboard cover and fulfil all the other Health records functions. On both these occasions the staff have been fantastic, going more than the extra mile, always willingly, and with no thought to personal gain."

"This group of staff really sees the needs of patients and their colleagues and takes a pride in their service," says Fred. "They are a good example, along with some others, of how good teams work together. They have a real sense of vocation for what they do."

"Without a functional switchboard the hospital would be in crisis," says Fred. "It is a skilled role that you can't just put anyone into. I feel it's a privilege and a motivator for me to work with such committed group of people."