

**7 September, 2019**

**Protecting our communities from measles**

There was a strong turnout for Waitematā DHB's free measles vaccination clinic at Waitakere Hospital today.

A total of 440 people received a free vaccination at the pop-up clinic set-up in response to the current outbreak. Any future drop-in clinics will be advertised via the Waitematā DHB Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/WaitemataDistrictHealthBoard/>

Anyone yet to be vaccinated, or unsure of their vaccination status, should contact their GP to get immunised.

"The best place to get a vaccination is from your GP – it is free for those aged 12 months and older. This drop-in clinic was designed for people in West Auckland who are not enrolled with a local GP and the response was very encouraging," says Chief Medical Officer Dr Jonathan Christiansen.

"We are very grateful to the team who organised this event and the staff who came in on a Saturday to make it happen. This was a team effort and we are very glad that so many people are now protected during the outbreak," added Dr Christiansen.

Vaccination is the best form of protection from measles, which is a highly-contagious virus that can result in serious illness and death.

Visit the ARPHS website: <https://www.arphs.health.nz> for an update on measles in Auckland.

**ENDS**

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