

Childhood immunisation during winter

During winter, when flu and other viruses are common, we often see whānau delaying childhood immunisations. This is usually because their tamariki have an illness, or they don't want to wait in a room with others who may be unwell.

However, **staying on schedule is important** to keep children protected from preventable diseases.

We encourage practices and providers to:

- **Reinforce to clinical staff and vaccinators**

Illness (such as a cough, cold, or low fever) is usually not a reason to delay immunisation and it is safe to vaccinate. Vaccinators can refer to the [IMAC pre-vaccination screening tool](#) or call 0800 IMMUNE (0800 466 863) for guidance.

- **Support admin teams handling cancellations**

If whānau call to cancel due to mild illness, offer them the chance to speak with a vaccinator before cancelling the appointment.

- **Include helpful reminders in appointment messages**

Let whānau know it is usually fine to proceed with immunisation if their child has a mild illness and to call if they are unsure.

- **Provide a 'clean zone' option**

Where possible, offer a separate waiting area for whānau attending immunisation appointments, so they can avoid others who may be unwell—and make sure they know this is available.