



VACCINATION IS IMPORTANT FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

# ISLHD Immunisation Newsletter - December

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## Immunisation Update - Webinars

As you are aware the ISLHD Public Health Unit together with Coordinare delivered the Immunisation Updates via webinar for 2020.

Below are the links for the previous sessions:

Recap of slides and recording from 1st October 2020 <https://vimeo.com/467547938/4d5c746ff2>

Recap of slides and recording from 27th October 2020 <https://vimeo.com/477869990>

## Immunisation Internet Page

The Public health Unit Immunisation team are excited to announce that our new Immunisation internet webpage is now **LIVE**.....

Over the last few months we have been busy developing an internet page that would be easy for you to use and navigate. It will provide you with the most up to date Immunisation information.

On our page you will find information on the following:



Follow the link below to view our page

<http://www.islhd.health.nsw.gov.au/services-clinics/public-health-unit/immunisation-0>

Click on the Immunisation education button for all Immunisation education needs including past webinars



**Merry Christmas**

And what a year it has been.....

The Public Health Unit would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas & a safe and prosperous New Year.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your hard work and support during this very challenging year.

Whilst we know that 2021 will hold its own challenges, we hope the relationships developed will continue to strengthen into the future.

## Vaccine Centre Christmas Closure

The State Vaccine Centre will be accepting vaccine orders until midday on Monday 21 December 2020. Deliveries will take place on Tuesday 22 December 2020. Routine deliveries will recommence on Monday 4 January 2021.

<https://nsw.tollhealthcare.com/>

## Contact your Public Health Unit for immunisation enquiries:

**Phone:**  
1300 066 055

**Fax:**  
4221 6759

**Email:**  
islhd-phu-immunisation@health.nsw.gov.au

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## Sharp Art Aboriginal immunisation artwork

Sharp Art Aboriginal Immunisation Artwork arrived at Shellharbour Hospital COVID Clinic to begin its journey around ISLHD services promoting immunisation with our First Nations People.

Public Health Unit (PHU) Immunisation Program team members, Tanya Simpson and Kath Tapper, led the Sharp Art Project in 2019. The project was a partnership with Aboriginal community members and ran for 16 weeks. The project aimed to develop two paintings to represent the story of immunisations from birth to end of life with local Aboriginal artists and students. The paintings were completed by Auntie Cecily Carpenter Wellington and students from Ulladulla High School and Auntie Lorraine Brown and Auntie Narelle Thomas with the Coomaditchie United Corporation students.

Tracey Hinke (ISLHD COVID Clinic Coordinator) has been partnering with Tanya and PHU Aboriginal Staff to provide culturally appropriate COVID testing for First Nations People. Together they have seen ISLHD Aboriginal staff trained in COVID testing and ensure Shellharbour COVID Clinic was the first service to host the artwork to create a culturally inclusive setting. The artwork will remain in the testing clinic for three months. Please contact Tanya Simpson [Tanya.Simpson@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Tanya.Simpson@health.nsw.gov.au) if you would like to host the artwork in your service.

The District has several initiatives to support our First Nations People during the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure services are culturally appropriate. ISLHD Aboriginal staff members who are interested in assisting with COVID-19 response are encouraged to enquire about current opportunities by contacting:

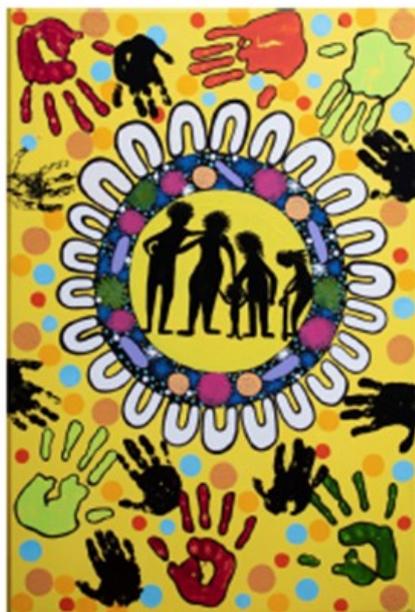
- COVID testing clinics: Tracey Hinke, ISLHD COVID Clinic Coordinator, [Tracey.Hinke@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Tracey.Hinke@health.nsw.gov.au)
- Public Health Unit: Karin Taylor, Bio preparedness Epidemiologist, [Karin.taylor@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Karin.taylor@health.nsw.gov.au)

### The Ulladulla Immunisation Artwork Story

*"Vaccination is very important it's a part of our health issues. Families going to their local health organisations having needle for all different types of health reasons. Many many years ago our Ancestors would use bush medicine instead of needles which never existed, and our Elders would be our Doctors and Nurses. It is very important to gain vaccination in whatever health reason where it's needed."*

### The Coomaditchie Immunisation Artwork Story

*"The artwork is a representation of vaccination and the importance of being vaccinated. Disease control can be helped by containing it. The circle is the enclosure – letting us know that the people within are safe from diseases because they have been vaccinated. From babies to the very old. The pretty colours are the actual diseases. The 'U' shapes are telling us this is a community issue and they have to be responsible, take notice and take care of their families. The hand prints are the community. The floating dots represent how diseases can be passed on from one person to the next."*



From top: L-R - Tracey Hinke and Tanya Simpson with Ulladulla Artwork by Auntie Cecily Carpenter Wellington and Ulladulla High School Students; Coomaditchie Artwork by Auntie Lorraine Brown and Auntie Narelle Thomas with the Coomaditchie school kids.

# GP Talking Points – November 2020

Please distribute to all doctors and staff in your practice



The NSW Health Immunisation Unit is now providing brief updates to immunisation providers on common issues which have been raised through discussions with general practitioners and their staff during the previous month. These will be circulated monthly.

## **Changes to State Vaccine Centre online ordering system**

### **Expired vaccine reporting**

You will notice when you are placing your vaccine orders that there have been some changes to the State Vaccine Centre online system. These include the ability to report expired vaccines and the requirement to now add the Medicare Provider numbers of all GPs and nurse practitioners participating in the Medicare program and providing immunisations at the practice. The Medicare Provider number will have a format such as 1468Y, it is not the AHPRA number or the AIR Registration number.

### **Pneumococcal Vaccines and current supply**

In July 2020 the National Immunisation Program and the [NSW Immunisation Schedule](#) were changed to reflect the changed eligibility for Pneumococcal Vaccines.

Information regarding these changes can be found on the [NSW Health website](#)

To ensure an equitable supply of vaccine in NSW, there are restrictions on ordering of both paediatric and adult doses of Prevenar 13. Please ensure that you are using the supply of adult vaccine only for eligible adult patients.

### **Zostavax – eligibility and clinical indications**

Those people aged 70 – 79 years are currently eligible for free Zostavax (Shingles) vaccine. It is essential that a comprehensive medical assessment of the patient occurs prior to the consent and approval for this vaccination.

The Zostavax pre vaccination checklist can be found at [Department of Health Zostavax Screening Checklist](#).

The vaccine must not be provided to those people with compromised immune function. The TGA released an alert in July 2020 in response to concerns that the vaccine may be inadvertently given to people in this category.

<https://www.tga.gov.au/alert/zostavax-vaccine-0>

### **Further Information**

- For information regarding immunisation issues, please visit the NSW Health website: [Immunisation Programs](#)
- Contact your local Public Health Unit on **1300 066 055**