



# TOI TE ORA PUBLIC HEALTH

Bay of Plenty + Lakes Districts



BAY OF PLENTY  
DISTRICT HEALTH BOARD  
HAUORA A TOI

Toi Te Ora Public Health  
PO Box 2120  
TAURANGA 3140

13 August 2018

To Primary Care and Well Child Tamariki Ora Services

Supply of BCG vaccine has resumed in New Zealand. This follows a long standing global shortage of BCG vaccine which resulted in an absence of local vaccine availability for over two years.

Babies or children less than five years of age are eligible for BCG vaccination if they meet one of the following criteria:

- They will be living in a house or family/whānau with a person with either current TB or a history of TB
- They have one or both parents or household members or carers who, within the **last five years, lived for a period of six months or longer** in countries with a TB rate  $\geq 40$  per 100,000 (list available online) at:  
[www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/publications/immshandbook-a8-high-incidence-tb-countries-mar18.pdf](http://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/publications/immshandbook-a8-high-incidence-tb-countries-mar18.pdf)
- During their first five years they will be living for **three months or longer** in a country with a TB rate  $\geq 40$  per 100,000.

The Ministry of Health has not recommended active recall or a catch up programme for children who missed having a BCG vaccination while the vaccine was unavailable. However, if any parents of children under five who meet the eligibility criteria request BCG vaccination please refer. These requests will be considered on a case by case basis with priority given to those aged less than one year or with higher risk.

Please find attached the BCG referral form. Completed forms are to be emailed to [phn.referral@bopdhb.govt.nz](mailto:phn.referral@bopdhb.govt.nz) or refer via Bay Navigator (referrals and advice tab then child health) <http://baynav.bopdhb.govt.nz/media/2393/fmr441-referral-for-bcg-vaccination.pdf>.

Yours sincerely

**Brenda Dixon**  
Communicable Disease Nurse