



# Helen Mason

Healthy, thriving communities, Kia Momoho Te Hāpori Ōranga.



## Help protect our patients by getting your free flu shot from Friday 5 April

The flu campaign begins on Friday 5th April and the target this year is for 80% of our staff to be vaccinated.

Here two of our wonderful staff, Tauranga RN Daniel Tustin and Whakatane Midwife Bernie Nare tell us why getting the flu jab is so important to them.

Daniel Tustin has been a registered nurse at Tauranga Hospital for 16 years and most of those have been spent in orthopaedics. He loves his job and is a regular with getting his annual flu vaccination.

"I do it to keep myself safe and for the safety of my patients. I don't want someone with co-morbidities having an extra infection to deal with as that can be extremely dangerous for the elderly especially, so anything I can do to minimise that chance is worth it. To be an effective nurse I need to be healthy and look after my own health.

"Having the flu shot means I will be less likely to have time off work and also less likely to carry infections back to my family as well," said Daniel, who is married with seven children aged 3 to 13.

Daniel is the Infectious Control Representative for his ward 4B. The staff of 4B put out a quarterly newsletter which features a 'bug of the moment'. The upcoming issue will focus on flu and vaccinations.

"I would encourage other staff members to get the vaccination so that they can protect their patients, their families and themselves," said Daniel. "For me it's all about safety."

Ko Matariki Midwife Bernie Nare is another staff member who is passionate about getting the flu jab, and would like to encourage colleagues to get theirs. She gets her flu shot every year protecting babies like the yet to be named baby Nuri she is pictured with here, born on Wednesday 27 March.

"I'm working with pregnant mums and babies who are vulnerable," said Bernie. "I want to do what I can to protect them. Healthy and thriving babies is what I'm passionate about."

## Free flu shots at work - from 5 April

No need to book, just show up. You will need to wait 20 minutes after your flu shot unless you are returning to a clinical setting. Just make sure you're wearing your 'Flu fighter' sticker showing you've had your flu shot.

Tauranga Hospital Flu HQ (1st floor -Old Credit Union space)	Whakatāne Hospital Outpatients
5 April -10 May 8-4pm	5 and 12 April 8.30-4pm
<b>Trolley Rounds</b>	<b>Trolley Rounds</b>
From 5 April more details to come	8 - 11 April, 15 - 30 April
Phone or text 027 7059353 or email: flu.HQ@bopdhb.govt.nz for more details.	Phone or text 027 274 3024 or email flu.HQ@bopdhb.govt.nz for more details.

**"Vaccines are the tugboats of preventive health."**

*William Foege, epidemiologist credited with the helping design the vaccine strategy to eliminate smallpox during the 1970s.*

## Clinical Lead for Quality appointed



We are delighted to announce that Dr Jerome Ng has been appointed as our new Clinical Director of the Health, Quality and Safety Service. As a result of our quality review there is going to be further development of our Health, Quality and Safety Service with four new positions created, the first of which is this Clinical Director position.

We had some great applicants for this position with Jerome as the standout candidate.

Jerome previously worked at Waitemata DHB as Lead Advisor: Improvement, Research and Informatics. He is a pharmacist by profession and currently an Executive Board Member at the Pharmaceutical Society of NZ. He has a strong drive for patient safety and describes himself as being “passionate about bringing people together to intelligently use information for strategic and sustainable quality improvement of health systems for better health outcomes”. Jerome’s PHD thesis at Auckland University was on the development of a framework for medications safety measurement.

We are excited to have him join the team as we embark on the next steps of our quality journey. Jerome starts work at the DHB on Monday 29 April.

## Health Select Committee presentation

Sally Webb, our Board Chair, and I recently travelled to Wellington to present to the Health Select Committee, and answer questions on behalf of our DHB, something which DHBs do regularly.

We covered a broad range of topics in a short space of time and it was a great opportunity to share some of the positive initiatives we have underway.

Sally began by telling the committee about how our Strategic Health Services Plan is driving the way we’re looking at service delivery in the Bay, and how we’re starting to see the development of the Health Care Home model of care.

She noted our commitment to equity and the developing Māori strategic plan, Te Toi Ahorangi. Te Toi Ahorangi is being undertaken in conjunction with our iwi rūnanga (representatives of our iwi) and we’re very excited about the direction. It’s a real opportunity to make a difference regarding Māori health statistics.

Sally also spoke of the influence of our values on our organisation, including the recent Speak Up Safely campaign, and the Board’s commitment to having an organisation that is values driven.

We noted a number of positive projects and results such as:

- Maori dental enrolments, where we’ve seen an improvement in our Māori population, from sitting at about 59%, round about 18 months ago, to 96% now.
- How proud we are of our clinical school being awarded clinical campus status by the University of Auckland, and of so many of our clinicians receiving teaching awards from the University of Auckland medical school this year.
- How the Rural Health Inter-professional Immersion Programme (RHIP), which is an interdisciplinary programme encouraging people to work rurally, goes from strength to strength.
- How excited and optimistic we are about the new leadership structure within our mental health service. And how much we are looking forward to the ministry response to the national mental health review.
- In respect of rural care, our focus on the concept of Health Care Home, using the broader healthcare team and not being as reliant on GPs alone. We’ve had a proactive approach in terms of encouraging nurse practitioners supporting rural provision and that’s shown some great results.
- The practice at Te Kaha, which is our most remote practice, which achieves great best breast and cervical screening rates, for a community which could potentially be seen as being vulnerable, they’re instead receiving wonderful service.

We also pointed out to the committee the significant challenges we face in the Bay of Plenty.

We raised the topic of the Bay’s significant population growth, and the demographics of our population. In the West we have a higher ageing population, and a fast-growing population. In the East, we have a different demographic, with a high Māori population, many people living rurally and very little population growth. So that, in itself, brings a number of challenges for us in servicing our total community.

Whilst we spoke about the great progress that’s been made on lots of health measures, we also spoke about our concerns over low immunisation rates, and the challenge of improving them.

The committee was interested in our infrastructure needs and understanding our ED demand and the drivers behind that. In discussing that, Sally and I noted our concern at the pace of change of system integration between primary and secondary services.

Whilst we have our share of challenges, it was good to be able to share our successes with the Committee.

Thank you for all your hard work and passion for making a difference for our community, which has driven those successes.