



1 August 2018

Dr Faline Howes, Clinical Director, CDPU - Public Health Services

Free meningococcal clinic

A free meningococcal immunisation clinic will be held this weekend at the Derwent Entertainment Centre as part of the public health response to a localised outbreak of meningococcal W disease in the Greater Hobart area.

The clinic will provide meningococcal ACWY ('Men W') vaccine to people aged between six weeks up to 21 years (born after 1 August, 1997).

Eligible people who want to attend the clinic must make a booking. Booking details will be provided tomorrow in *The Mercury* and at health.tas.gov.au.

The clinic will be open from 9am until 7pm on Saturday 4 August and from 9am until 6pm on Sunday 5 August.

Further clinics will be held on the weekend of 18 and 19 August.

Public Health Services estimates more than 4000 people will be able to be vaccinated each weekend.

These clinics are for eligible people who live or spend significant time in the areas of New Town, Moonah and Glenorchy.

These immunisations will also be available free from a range of providers including general practitioners and, from next week, authorised pharmacist immunisers, throughout Tasmania over the next three months.

Public Health Services thanks the Glenorchy City Council and Derwent Entertainment Centre for their great support for these clinics over the coming weekend.

It is still important to be aware of the symptoms of meningococcal disease, such as fever, severe headache, severe muscle pain, and quickly becoming unusually unwell. Late in the illness, there can be a rash. Infants can be lethargic, floppy and feed poorly.

Anyone who is concerned they may have symptoms of meningococcal disease should seek emergency medical care.

Further information is available online at <http://www.health.tas.gov.au> or via the Public Health Hotline on 1800 671 738.

Contact: Stephanie Williams

Phone: 0498 045 592