

Media Release

8/06/06

Concern over CMDHB Flu Vaccination figures

Latest flu vaccination figures show the CMDHB region's vaccination rates are significantly lower than last years.

Figures from the end of May show 45,270 doses have been given, compared to 53,130 at the end of June last year.

Doctors are urging people to get a flu vaccination before this years campaign ends on June the 30th.

“We’re not doing as well as we should be,” says Dr Tom Bracken, CMDHB GP Liaison. “A vaccination is a really effective way to prevent influenza. You need to get one every year and it’s free for those over 65 years and people with most chronic illnesses. Hundreds of people are admitted to hospital every year because of influenza and its complications – a vaccination is an important prevention strategy,” says Dr Bracken.

Dr Bracken says some people think the vaccine can cause influenza. This is not possible as it is not a ‘live’ vaccine. Also, some people think if they keep themselves fit and well they won’t get influenza. This is not true – some of the sickest people we saw last year were relatively fit and young.

Flu vaccination not only protects you but helps stop the spread of the virus to your family and workmates. “There are still three weeks left to get a flu vaccination and gain protection from the seasonal flu virus”.

For more information contact Lauren Young and Associates on (09) 378 8433.