

Public Health Nursing Service



Free Health Support for Our Children



he whakaaritanga hauora koreutu mo nga tamariki katoa

Public Health Nurses (PHN)

- Are Registered Nurses
- Have knowledge, experience and training in child and family health
- Are available to listen and talk with children, young people, parents, caregivers and school staff
- Liaise with family doctors, specialists and other service providers
- Work within required legislation to ensure confidentiality is maintained

What we do ...

- Visit schools on a regular basis to advise on children's health
- Work with families
- Provide parenting support
- Monitor the health status of children at school
- Provide adolescent health clinics in many intermediate schools and secondary schools
- Support health promotion in schools
- Refer to appropriate support services including STAND Children's Village and Holiday Camps
- Provide 0-5 Well Child Services in Kaikoura and Akaroa
- Provide health information for Early Education centres

Referral Information

Referrals are accepted for school age children with health concerns or from 4½ years if these concerns may impact on them starting school.

- Self referrals are accepted.
- Written referrals need to be on a Public Health Nurses (PHN) referral form (available on the website). All sections need to be completed.
- All referrals are to have the consent of the parent/caregiver evidenced by their signature on the referral form or by verification that verbal consent has been given. Consent must be obtained before the Public Health Nurse can make contact with the parent/caregiver.
- Referrals may be discussed with or returned to the referrer with recommendations if there is:
 - no health concern identified
 - more information is required
 - no documented consent
 - the criteria for referral to the PHN service is not met

Who can contact us?

Any one can contact the service including:

- School staff and students
- Parents
- General Practitioners
- Support Agencies

We may meet ...

- At school
- At home
- At work
- At clinics
- At a place of your choice

Referral criteria

Physical/Medical

- Allergies/Anaphylaxis
- Asthma/frequent cough
- Co-ordination/Motor skills
- Eating/Nutrition
- Hearing or vision concerns
- Medical conditions (eg. seizures, epilepsy, diabetes)
- Puberty/Sexuality/Sexual health
- Skin conditions (eg. eczema, head lice, infectious diseases)
- Tiredness/Lethargy (continual – over a long period of time)
- Wetting/Soiling

Emotional/Social

- Significant behaviour concerns or changes at home (eg. sleeping, fearful, worried, nervous, tearful). School-based behavioural concerns need to be referred to the Resource Teachers: Learning and Behaviours (RTLb).
- Friendships/Relationships
- Grief/Loss

Public Health Nurses (PHN) can be consulted around concerns that may not meet the service criteria for referral and will provide alternative referral options.

See our website for further information
www.cdhb.govt.nz/phns

Our service also includes ...

A Medical Officer

- Who provides medical expertise and physical examination on referral from Public Health Nurses
- Who liaises with family Doctors and specialists

BCG (Tuberculosis) Vaccination Service

- Provides BCG immunisations for identified “at risk” children under 5 years of age

B4 School Checks

- Support General Practice to provide the free 4 year old health checks in the community

Office hours

Monday – Friday 8:30am – 5:00pm

Contact details

Public Health Nursing Service
Burwood Hospital
Private Bag 4708
Christchurch 8140

Phone (03) 383 6877

Fax (03) 383 6878

Email phnburwood@cdhb.govt.nz

Contact phone numbers for Public Health Nurses

Ashburton (03) 307 8378

Christchurch (03) 383 6877

Kaikoura (03) 319 5125

Rangiora (03) 311 8665

Lincoln (03) 325 6218

