

## **Public Health Communique – West Moreton Public Health Unit**

West Moreton Public Health Unit will maintain service over coming days, but anticipates reduced capacity due to TC Alfred. The following advice relates to vaccine management and to immunisation for people affected by TC Alfred.

### **Cold Chain Breaches**

Vaccine cold chain breaches often follow power outages in extreme weather events. Vaccine service providers (VSPs) should ensure vaccine management protocols are up-to-date and that all staff are familiar with guidance for storage and handling of vaccines in the event of a power outage.

In the event of a cold chain breach, please isolate affected vaccines in your vaccine fridge, provide clear signage on the fridge indicating a cold chain breach has occurred and email a [cold chain breach reporting form](#) to [QHIP-ADMIN@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:QHIP-ADMIN@health.qld.gov.au).

Note that the Queensland Health Immunisation Program (QHIP) has suspended routine vaccine ordering until further notice. QHIP will assess and prioritise vaccine orders for emergency scenarios on a case-by-case basis.

### **Tetanus vaccination**

The most common presentations to primary health care after extreme weather events typically relate to injuries sustained during the weather event or in the recovery clean up.

Tetanus boosters are required only according to the recommendations in the *Australian Immunisation Handbook*, found at: [Tetanus | The Australian Immunisation Handbook](#).

Any wound other than a clean, minor cut is considered 'tetanus-prone'. Deep, penetrating wounds, wounds that contain foreign bodies like wood splinters, and wounds that are obviously contaminated by soil and dust are considered particularly prone to tetanus.

Children <10 years with a tetanus-prone wound should receive DTPa or a DTPa combination vaccine, consistent with their vaccine history and the recommended schedule.

People aged ≥10 years with a tetanus-prone should receive a booster dose of dT (ADT) or dTpa if their last dose was >5 years ago.

Consult the *Australian Immunisation Handbook* for those with no previous vaccination or an uncertain vaccination history.

### **Other vaccinations**

There is no requirement for hepatitis A, cholera, or typhoid vaccination for people exposed to Queensland flood water or flood mud. These infections occur sporadically in Queensland, most often following overseas acquisition. These infections are not currently circulating in Queensland. They do not present a significant enough risk to warrant vaccination following the response to this extreme weather event.