

7 April 2017

Message for our Pacific communities: Typhoid outbreak in Auckland

Malo e lelei, Talofa lava, Kia orana, Fakaalofa lahi atu, Bula Vinaka,

Warm Pacific Greetings and Blessings to All in our community from Auckland Regional Public Health Service

The health authorities and Auckland Regional Public Health Service are working together to manage the outbreak of typhoid in Auckland. This outbreak has happened in a very small and localised area.

Please share this information with your congregation, your fanau and community. We apologise if some of the words used below, and in our materials, are offensive but it is important that your community understand typhoid.

We can confirm that a Samoan Assembly of God church congregation is at the centre of the outbreak of typhoid. They hold their services at Wesley Primary School in Mt Roskill.

There is no evidence that it has spread further in the Pacific community in Auckland. A very small number of people have been getting sick. This means the outbreak may not spread much more.

Hugging and kissing each other or casual contact **DOES NOT** spread typhoid.

Typhoid is only spread by eating food or drink that is contaminated by the faeces (fa'atulou atu) or urine (fa'atulou atu) from a person who has the illness or may be a carrier of the bacteria.

Please encourage everyone to wash hands regularly and be careful with food preparation.

Once people are effectively treated in hospital, the risk of them spreading the disease is significantly reduced. It can take a number of days of monitoring before they are fully cleared. Once cleared there is no risk of spreading.

Symptoms of typhoid include a high fever developing over several days, headaches, general weakness and muscle aches. Stomach pain and constipation are also common but some people get diarrhoea.

A fact sheet about typhoid in Samoan and English is included along with some questions and answers that may be helpful.

If fanau are worried, then they should visit their family doctor or call the nurses at Healthline on 0800 611 166. Healthline offer full translation services and operate 24 hours per day 7 days per week.

Regular updates are also being made on <http://www.arphs.govt.nz/>.

Warm blessings to you and your community.