



Covid Vaccinations:

Challenges, reflections, & learnings

Ann Privett FPS

Unichem Upper Hutt Pharmacy and
Pharmaceutical Society Of New Zealand

Unichem Upper Hutt Pharmacy

- ▶ Providing Flu vaccinations to the community & to Aged Residential Care (ARRC) since 2011
- ▶ May 2021-contract to provide Covid vaccinations to ARRC
- ▶ 2 to 3 accredited pharmacist vaccinators
Plus 2 to 3 administrators





Off-site Covid Vaccination Service

- ▶ ARRC
- ▶ Residential Homes that support adults with intellectual disabilities : Idea Homes
- ▶ Residential care homes for people with long term physical disabilities : Laura Fergusson
- ▶ Individuals that were house bound in their homes
- ▶ Updated any Flu shots as well

Challenges

- ▶ Cold chain
- ▶ Working off site :
finding set up areas :
away from light
/enough space
- ▶ Scheduling : 1st or 2nd
doses with Annual Flu
doses
- ▶ CIR : Internet
- ▶ Vaccinators



Learning

- ▶ Fantastic feedback from these homes
- ▶ transferrable Communication skills
- ▶ System Skills
- ▶ Learning from past FLU vaccinations



Community Covid Vaccinations

- ▶ In August started vaccinating the community from community pharmacy
- ▶ Clinic in Gym next to H2O Xtreme in Upper Hutt (Busy Months)
- ▶ Rooms at the Pharmacy (2 vaccinating rooms & reception/waiting room)
- ▶ 3 to 4 vaccinators PLUS 4 administrators
- ▶ Providing 300 to 400 vaccinations daily



Challenges

- ▶ Cold chain: especially over summer
- ▶ Vaccine supply
- ▶ Rapidly changing environment
- ▶ Confusing Government messages



Processes

- ▶ 3 different areas to reconstitute one for each different vaccination
- ▶ Separate the diluting and the drawing up areas
- ▶ Each table / container /documentation is colour coded :
- ▶ Purple Adult
- ▶ Orange Children



Quantity Control

- ▶ Team meeting before every clinic for day
- ▶ Planning
- ▶ Change process



Astra Zeneca



- ▶ Astra Zeneca -Vaccinator for the day
- ▶ Made up separately when needed – not before
- ▶ Patients needed vaccinator with good knowledge and excellent communication skills
- ▶ The booking system information
- ▶ Pfizer to AZ -script required

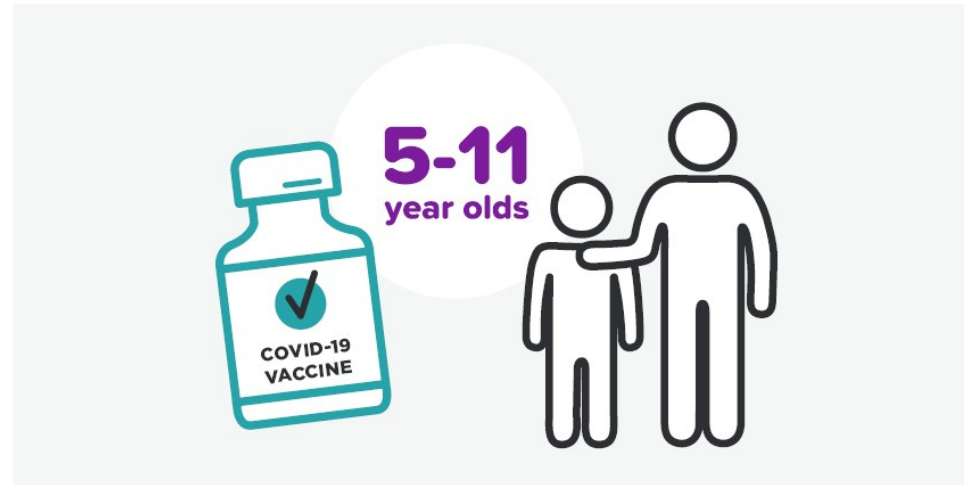
Children Vaccinations

- ▶ Separate vaccination area Colourful Friendly
- ▶ Posters: Lolli pops :colouring in ;free pens
- ▶ Had one primary vaccinator doing the children's vaccinations
- ▶ Priority for Children



Children's Challenges

- ▶ New For pharmacists
- ▶ More of a mental barrier
- ▶ Learnt from the nurses on the team
- ▶ Asked administrators for help : 2nd set of eyes to make sure the right vaccination was given



School Clinic's

- ▶ Holding Clinics in the schools was also a highlight
- ▶ Run the gauntlet of protesters
- ▶ Great talking to the students and answering many of their questions



Marae

- ▶ One of the highlights was the relationship that Duncan the pharmacy owner developed through the Covid vaccination clinics we held at the Marae
- ▶ Visited the Marae regularly to vaccinate .
- ▶ The whole team benefitted and learnt from the experience
- ▶ This on-going relationship could mean new medication management services between the pharmacy and the Marae in the future

Team Environment

- ▶ Working with other health professionals – Interdisciplinary teams
- ▶ learnt that we all have specific skills that we bring to the table



Pharmacy Vaccination Service

- ▶ Adaptable: responded to challenges & changed practice
- ▶ Moved quickly
- ▶ Little wastage
- ▶ Efficient: Completed well ahead of projected timeframe
- ▶ Good Feedback
- ▶ Delivered outcomes for the DHB's
- ▶ Good quality control good systems
- ▶ Worked well in a multi-disciplinary team environment
- ▶ Pharmacists' skill set highlighted