

### Frequently Asked Questions

1 February 2017

***If my child attended the Pukekohe Intermediate Dental Clinic during the identified period, how do I tell them about the issue?***

We would suggest you try to keep the language simple and to the point. Try not to overwhelm them with too much information as it can lead to confusion. It's important to remember that the medical advice is that likely risk of your child being exposed to a blood borne virus is very low.

Assure your child not to worry. Let them know that they need a small test just to make sure their blood is healthy.

If you remain concerned about how to talk about it and understand the risks then please call Healthline on 0800 611 166.

***How many children are affected?***

From 13 September 2016 until 23 January 2017 the Pukekohe Intermediate Dental Clinic treated around 2,500 children.

***Will my child require another test?***

Due to the slow incubation of blood borne viruses, a second blood test may be needed up to three months from the time when the child had their dental treatment. Children who have been seen after October 23rd are likely to require two blood tests.

***What if our family or whaanau have a planned trip overseas?***

We recommend that parents and caregivers speak with their GP in the first instance to discuss what the best option is. If parents and caregivers take their child for testing and screening, then we have received advice that they may need to declare this on any required visa and insurance application forms. The situations will differ for individual situations.

***What if we no longer live in the area?***

Parents and caregivers who have children who attended the Dental Clinic during the identified period, who now live out of the Pukekohe area, should seek the advice of their GP who will be able to arrange necessary tests and follow-up. If they do, it is important to let your GP know why you are asking for the tests.

***Can I still feel confident about the Dental Service?***

Auckland Regional Dental Service (ARDS) has undertaken a full review of all dental clinics in the Auckland region and have confirmed this is an isolated case. We uphold high standards of care and infection control. Incidents of this nature are extremely rare.