

## Kathleen Logan

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**From:** Nikki Turner <n.turner@auckland.ac.nz>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 18 May 2021 1:36 PM  
**To:** Kathleen Logan; amanda.kvalsvig@otago.ac.nz; Emma Best  
**Subject:** RE: Children and COVID vaccines  
**Attachments:** image006.png.zip; image007.png.zip; image008.png.zip

Hi Kathleen

Quick first response to this bit ta....

In terms of reducing transmission it really varies with different bugs

- With influenza - the UK experience is that vaccinating younger school children ie primary school age is the most effective way of reducing transmission
- Meningococcal - definitely young infants and older teenagers who carry in their nasopharynx more than other ages

I think the first problem is that we are not sure if we can get effective herd immunity with COVID, it might be possible but it is not clear, so the first strategy has to remain individual protection and we know it is highly effective against that. But if we want to also as much as we can reduce transmission then vaccinating kids will help, it is not entirely clear yet though which age group is most likely to spread - I would say generally school age as they mix in higher numbers than infants even though infants spread respiratory viruses very effectively!

General immunisation issues - will try and get to your document soon but the main concern and very worrying is dropping immunisation rates, particularly timeliness of delivery  
We had a drop off with the lock down, picked up a bit - but this year with the focus on COVID vaccinations there is an alarming on going drop off, particularly for timeliness ( the 6 month measure) but also even at 2 - the rates for Pacific dropping in particular is very concerning

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**From:** Kathleen Logan <[K.Logan@occ.org.nz](mailto:K.Logan@occ.org.nz)>  
**Sent:** Monday, 17 May 2021 10:34 AM  
**To:** Nikki Turner <[n.turner@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:n.turner@auckland.ac.nz)>; [amanda.kvalsvig@otago.ac.nz](mailto:amanda.kvalsvig@otago.ac.nz)  
**Subject:** RE: Children and COVID vaccines

Thank you both so much.

No worries, as this isn't urgent. Yet.

I note that Amanda and Mike said when you presented to OCC: if they could only vaccinate ¼ of the population to **reduce transmission**, they would choose young people aged 12 to 25, because they mix the most, are still learning how to make the right decisions, and are linked to vulnerable people in families. I feel it is good the government is trying to enable vaccination of younger age groups. Schools are a convenient route to childhood vaccinations.

If it helped, I could compile a few questions that I envisage OCC /Andrew Becroft might need to respond to.

On the other hand, we hoped you could articulate issues we should know about, and raise, related to general immunisations, and particularly Covid-19.

Please forward to Dr Best as I don't have her email.

Ngā mihi

**Dr Kathleen Logan**

Lead, Education Advocacy Work Programme

Chair, Advisory Committee on Assisted Reproductive Technologies

Senior Advisor, Strategy Rights & Advice

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**P: s 9(2)(a) OIA**



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**From:** Nikki Turner <[n.turner@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:n.turner@auckland.ac.nz)>

**Sent:** Sunday, 16 May 2021 5:42 PM

**To:** Sarah Morris <[S.Morris@occ.org.nz](mailto:S.Morris@occ.org.nz)>; [amanda.kvalsvig@otago.ac.nz](mailto:amanda.kvalsvig@otago.ac.nz)

**Cc:** Kathleen Logan <[K.Logan@occ.org.nz](mailto:K.Logan@occ.org.nz)>; Leah Haines <[L.Haines@occ.org.nz](mailto:L.Haines@occ.org.nz)>

**Subject:** RE: Children and COVID vaccines

Kia ora Sarah

My very big apologies for being really slow to get back to you on this one - in view of my slowness I am going to see if my colleague Dr Emma Best, ID Paediatrician working with us can have a quick look at this - I know Emma is awfully busy as well but Emma I am really hoping you might be able to have a quick first look at this on our behalf for Sarah

I will try and get to it soon too.....very sorry, and I do believe this is high priority - we are very worried about dropping vaccination rates for children at the moment

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**From:** Sarah Morris <[S.Morris@occ.org.nz](mailto:S.Morris@occ.org.nz)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, 11 May 2021 1:29 PM

**To:** [amanda.kvalsvig@otago.ac.nz](mailto:amanda.kvalsvig@otago.ac.nz); Nikki Turner <[n.turner@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:n.turner@auckland.ac.nz)>

**Cc:** Kathleen Logan <[K.Logan@occ.org.nz](mailto:K.Logan@occ.org.nz)>; Leah Haines <[L.Haines@occ.org.nz](mailto:L.Haines@occ.org.nz)>

**Subject:** Children and COVID vaccines

Kia ora kōrua,

I hope this finds you both well. With the COVID-19 vaccine roll-out in full swing, we are preparing for potential questions and advocacy messaging around vaccines for children.

This is an initial email to introduce my colleague Kathleen Logan who works in our advice team and who will be the key contact point for the Children's Commissioner on this topic. Amanda, I know you and Kathleen have crossed paths before. We are not planning any proactive advocacy on this issue but we want to be well informed should there be a need to speak publicly on issues such as age requirements or funding etc.

Nikki, Amanda helped peer review a section in the Children's Rights in the COVID-19 Response report we published recently that touched on the vaccine strategy – see pages 35-39 here:

[www.occ.org.nz/publications/reports/childrens-rights-in-covid19/](http://www.occ.org.nz/publications/reports/childrens-rights-in-covid19/)

I appreciate that you are both super busy. Do you have any initial thoughts on this matter? If you have any key sources of information or contacts, or suggested messages or things we could be exploring, they would be greatly received.

Ngā mihi nui,  
Sarah

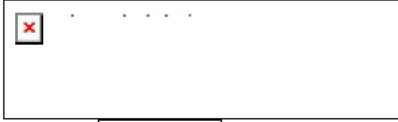
**Sarah Morris** (she/her)

Manager Advice – Strategy, Rights and Advice

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