

Free Webinar: Wednesday 13 September 12.00pm



Assessing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on childhood vaccine uptake with integrated administrative data

This study examines the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on childhood vaccination coverage in New Zealand using population-wide administrative data.

For each immunisation event from 6 weeks to 4 years, we compare children who became eligible for immunisation during the pandemic to earlier born cohorts. We find for our affected cohorts that the initial phase of the pandemic had, on average, small or nil effects on timely immunisation at the four infancy events, but a large effect at the 4-year event of -15 percentage points. Nine months after eligibility, catch-up for the affected cohort was largely achieved for the infancy immunisations, but 4-year coverage remained 6 percentage points below pre-pandemic levels. Uptake initially dropped most among children of European ethnicity and of high-earning parents but catch-up quickly surpassed their Māori, Pacific, and lower-earning counterparts for whom sizeable gaps in coverage below pre-pandemic levels remained at the end of our observation period. The pandemic thus widened pre-existing inequalities in immunisation coverage.

Join us for this comprehensive talk, the first in a series of our new Virtual Health Information Network webinar series. Email vhin@otago.ac.nz to be notified about upcoming webinars.



Speaker: Thomas Schober

[Thomas Schober](#) is a Senior Research Fellow at the NZ Work Research Institute. His research interests include health, family, and labour economics. He has extensive experience in working with administrative data and applying quantitative econometric methods. Before joining the AUT, Thomas worked for the Department of Economics at the Johannes Kepler University Linz, Austria.

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