



VACCINES WORK



The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends that 90 – 95% of a community be immunized in order to protect the population of a country from outbreaks of diseases such as measles. By the age of 2, all children in Bermuda should be vaccinated according to the Department of Health's Immunization Schedule. However, in 2017 vaccination

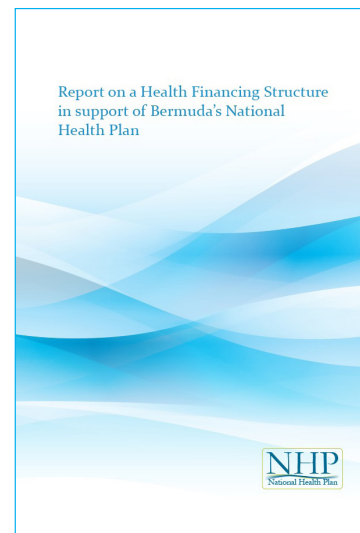
levels were well below the WHO requirement. For example, 87% received the first dose of the vaccine to prevent measles, mumps and rubella and only 65% received the 2nd dose. Low vaccination levels affect more than the individual. Vulnerable populations such as those who are too young or ill to be vaccinated are at increased risk of serious

illness including death and disability when outbreaks occur. Europe is currently experiencing their own outbreak of measles due to low vaccination rates with more than 41,000 infected and 37 deaths in the first six months of 2018. Measles can cause health problems including pneumonia, blindness, and inflammation of the brain. Vaccinations are not just for you, but protect the Island as a whole and especially those persons who need it the most—young babies, pregnant women, or immune-compromised persons. Speak to your doctor, paediatrician and visit our website for more information: www.gov.bm/immunization-schedules-children-and-adults.

HEALTH FINANCING REFORM

To advance reforms proposed in the 2012 Report on a Health Financing Structure in support of Bermuda's National Health Plan, the Ministry of Health has formed a Stakeholder Consultation Group. The Group is made-up of a broad section of key health sector partners including physicians, health professionals, insurers, employers, and patient representatives. The options outlined in the 2012 Report will be considered including the analysis and potential

impacts. The goal is to reform our currently expensive, inefficient and complicated health funding system. The two options are a "Unified System" and a "Dual System". Both remove complexity currently in our system by consolidating the insured populations and streamlining the premium and pricing process. The reforms will help the Government contain costs and improve healthcare access for all. Follow updates at www.gov.bm/bermuda-health-strategy-goal-9.



LONG TERM CARE STRATEGY

Consultation continues with key stakeholder groups on the development of the Ministry's Long Term Care Strategy, to be published by the end of the year. The Strategy will outline how to develop a long-term care system for the island—structure, services and legislative requirements—and consider a full continuum of care—not just residential care.

INSPECTIONS

Ageing and Disability Service's annual inspections of the Care Homes are underway using the new Code of Practice. The inspections are part of the licensing process and require input from six different agencies including Environmental Health, ADS, Fire, Nutrition Services, OT/PT, and Nursing. The Code can be found on our website: <https://www.gov.bm/care-home-registration-and-inspection>

HEALTHCARE COSTS

Can we put a price on health? Ideally we shouldn't have to but in reality we all pay for the country's health costs. The Health Council's most recent National Health Accounts report that we spent \$11,362 per person in 2017. This is high compared to other countries and the causes are clear: an ageing population, increased chronic diseases, and inefficient coverage, fees and pooling. Initiatives like home care, chronic disease management and modernization of fees are all helping to control spending. Next we're tackling our inefficient financing, which help further to improve access for all and contain costs.

