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Saturday, August 10, 2019

(Room 1)

9:30 - 10:00 Refugee Health Screening

REFUGEE HEALTH

Carolyn Pye PHN, Dr. Jo Williams
Mangere Refugee Resettlement Centre (MRRC)

Auckland Regional Public Health Service

Rātonga Hauora ā Iwi o Tamaki Makaurau



Waitemata
District Health Board
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Working with the people of Auckland, Waitemata and Counties Manukau

WHO IS A REFUGEE?

- **Under the mandate of United Nations High Commission for Refugees...**

“...Someone who owing to a well founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his or her nationality, and is unable or owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself or herself of the protection of that country..”



THE JOURNEY OF A REFUGEE

1. Flee from war/violence/persecution
2. Travel/smuggled to 2nd country
3. Register with UNHCR – apply for refugee status
4. Interviewed by Immigration NZ
5. Accepted or declined
6. Travel to NZ



There are **70.8 million forcibly** displaced people worldwide. **25.9 million** are recognised as refugees.

The global demand for resettlement is high. **Less than 1%** of the world's refugees are offered resettlement to a third country.

Refugee resettlement reflects New Zealand's **international commitment** to refugee protection.







PURPOSE OF RHSS – SUPPORT FORMER REFUGEES TO BECOME HEALTHY NEW ZEALANDERS



REFUGEE HEALTH SCREENING: 3 PHASES

- Off-shore (IOM)
- Refuge Health Screening Service at MRRC.
- Transition to resettlement location Health Services

OFFSHORE REFUGEE HEALTH SCREENING

Most countries, including NZ have off-shore screening (IOM), then post-arrival screening.

Function of off-shore screening is to:

- Exclude certain categories of disease from resettlement
- Identify and start treating serious health issues
- routine procedures eg: some vaccinations, HIV screening, FBC, CXR
- Convey information to receiving countries

CURRENT POST ARRIVAL SCREENING IN NZ

1. History and examination

2. Laboratory tests and chest xrays

- **Core screening tests:** FBC, Haemoglobinopathy, iron studies, LFT, HepB, HepC antibodies, HIV, syphilis, schisto; three stool specimens for parasites.
- **Age/sex related conditional tests:** >15 yrs: creatinine and electrolytes, STI screen
- **TB Screening:** Age: infant -14 yrs mantoux or Quantiferon, 15 yrs and older CXR.

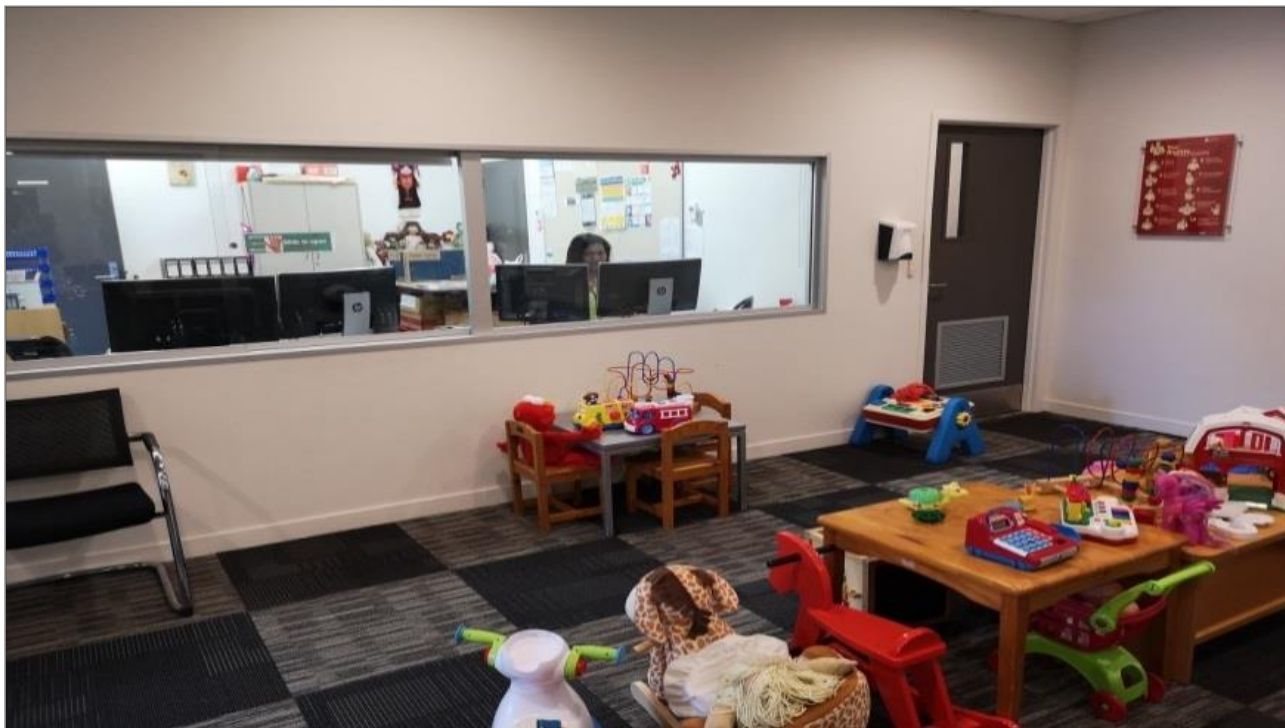
3. Dental (Adults only)

CURRENT POST ARRIVAL SCREENING CONT...

- 4. Catch up Immunisations - need F/U in community**
- 5. Smoking Cessation**
- 6. Contraception**
- 7. Health Education**
- 8. Mental Health assessment**
- 9. Commence tx for acute conditions and some long term. Referrals to some clinics (eg: sexual health), other referrals left to resettlement GP**
- 10. Transfer records - Hand over to community GP**

TYPICAL MEDICAL CONDITIONS SEEN AT RHSS

- Vitamin D deficiency
- Dyspepsia
- Headaches, Chronic Body Aches
- Dental caries
- Psychological issues
- Hep B carriers, Haemoglobinopathies
- Latent TB
- Parasites – Giardia, worms.
- Traumatic injuries
- Syphilis – STI's are not common
- Smoking



REGIONAL RESETTLEMENT

Primary Health

- Completion of NZ imms schedule
- Follow up on referrals – specialists and mental health
- Linked into – breast screening/Cx screening, Hepatitis foundation
- Disability / needs assessment and support

Red Cross

- Dental Enrolment
- Optometry Appointments

PHN

- Plunket / well child providers Action plan for abnormal Tb/LTBI
- Children - enrolled in the school dental programme



INTERACTING WITH FORMER REFUGEES

Important points to remember:

- Interpreters
- Poor health literacy
- Time to talk - often little or no previous health care
- Past trauma - avoid re-traumatising



CHANGES AHEAD JULY 2020

- Increase quota refugees to 1500 per year.
- Extend overseas pre-arrival screening.
- MRRC would treat only identified and new health issues.
- Improved care off-shore
- MBIE/MOH leading program development



CHALLENGES OF RESETTLEMENT



Resources

- CALD <https://www.ecald.com/>
- Language line

<https://www.ethniccommunities.govt.nz/language-line/>



RHSS staff are always available by phone (09 638 0099) or email refugee@adhb.govt.nz