

PANDEMIC COMMUNICATION: COVID-19 PROVIDER NETWORK UPDATE

This update is prepared by the Capital & Coast and Hutt Valley District Health Boards. It is consistent with Ministry of Health advice. The Ministry of Health remains the definitive source of information.

Our focus is on ensuring you have the information you need, when you need it, in order for you to care for your staff and the people who depend on your service.

Any questions regarding this communication may be directed to COVID-19Questions@ccdhb.org.nz. All emails to the COVID-19 email address will be logged and responded to by an appropriate team member.

The purpose of this advice is to provide updates and guidance on:

- Get a test if you have symptoms
- Access to Medicines
- Designated Testing Station update
- Surveillance testing at the border
- Quarantine Update
- Rheumatic fever
- Admissions to Age Residential Care

The advice for all health professionals page on the [Ministry of Health's website](#) is a source of up-to-date information. Please check it regularly.

GET A TEST IF YOU HAVE SYMPTOMS

The Ministry of Health have confirmed the importance of testing and have issued the following messaging:

- We encourage anyone in Auckland with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 to be tested, whether or not they meet the Higher Index of Suspicion.
- For our Wellington region residents, call your doctor or Healthline to find out if you need to get a test for COVID-19. If you're offered a test, take it.
- The assessment and test for COVID-19 is free.
- We will support anyone who has COVID-19 and their family, and look after their health and wellbeing.
- If you do not have symptoms, you do not need a test, UNLESS you've been advised by health officials, for example if you're a close contact a confirmed case, or if you work at the border.
- It's also important to remember the basic public health measures which keep communities protected: staying home if you're sick, frequent hand-washing, and good sneeze and cough etiquette.

ACCESS TO MEDICINES

There are clear public messages for the access to medicine. There is no need to stock-pile on medicines. Community pharmacies stay open to the public through all COVID-19 levels and will be available in our communities to support with medicine supply and information needs.

If people don't need their prescription straight away, they should arrange for the prescription to be sent through to the pharmacy of their choice and then make contact with that pharmacy to arrange a convenient time to pick up their medicine or have it delivered. This will ensure the pharmacy team can be available to

spend time with patients while minimising numbers in pharmacies at any one time to support physical distancing.

As you would in your local supermarket, please be kind to those people in your local pharmacy - they are there to support you. We encourage you to keep checking the Ministry of Health and COVID-19 websites for new information.

DESIGNATED TESTING STATION UPDATE

We now have eight Designated Testing Stations open. Capital & Coast DHB also has 11 designated medical practices for swabbing.

For the 24 hours to midnight 13 August 2020, 870 tests were performed across the 2DHBs (670 tests for CCDHB, 200 tests for HVDHB).

Designated Testing Stations are operating as per the table below. This is correct at the time of writing, but please check the website. Updates will be made as quickly as possible and as often as necessary. We will continue to strongly encourage appointments at DSTs, but walk-ins are sometimes the best way for people to access testing.

Demand for testing is high, so when referring people for a test please ask them to be patient. Testing is for symptomatic people only at this time, and we want all symptomatic people to be tested. We strongly recommend that people make an appointment.

HEALTH LINE INSTRUCTIONS

Capital and Coast DHB: CCDHB domiciled patients that meet the case definition and require swabbing should be referred to call:

- All Ora Toa patients and people residing in Porirua East to call 0508 Ora Toa (0508 872 862) to book a Covid swab at the Cannons Creek swabbing centre
- All others to call the Tu Ora COVID Centre Referrals number (0800 885 022). They will be given an appointment time at the nearest clinic.

Hutt Valley DHB: HVDHB domiciled patients that meet the case definition and require swabbing should be referred to cbac@teahn.org.nz or phone 04 576 8619. They will be given an appointment time at the nearest clinic.

Location	Address	Hours	Days	Access
Team Medical (Kāpiti)	1 Coastlands Parade, Paraparaumu	As required minimum 2 hours/day	Mon-Sat	By Appointment only
Cannons Creek	178 Bedford Street, Cannons Creek, Porirua	9am-4.30pm 9.45am-3.45pm 10am-2pm	Mon-Fri Sat Sun	Appointment Strongly Preferred/ walk in
Karori - St Teresa's Church	301 Karori Road, Karori, Wellington	9.30am-2.30pm 9.30am-4.00pm Closed	Mon-Fri Sat Sun	Appointment Strongly Preferred/ walk in

Location	Address	Hours	Days	Access
Kenepuru Hospital	Ambulance Bay Site	9am-4pm 10am-2pm	Mon-Fri Sat-Sun	Appointment Strongly Preferred/ walk in
Newtown	Wellington Hospital Carpark (off Mein Street)	9am-5pm 9am-4pm	Mon-Fri Sat-Sun	Appointment Strongly Preferred/ walk in
Lower Hutt Central	729 High St, Lower Hutt	9am - 4pm 1pm – 5pm	Mon-Fri Sat-Sun	Appointment Strongly Preferred/ walk in
Naenae/Taita	TBC	Currently closed – opening date and hours TBC		
Wainuiomata	Adjacent to Whai Oranga Health Centre, 7 The Strand, Wainuiomata	11am-4pm 11am-2pm Closed	Mon-Fri Sat Sun	Appointment Strongly Preferred/ walk in
Upper Hutt	Heretaunga Christian Centre, 51 Lane Street, Upper Hutt	9am-4pm 9am-3pm Closed	Mon, Wed-Fri Sat Sun	Appointment Strongly Preferred/ walk in

SURVEILLANCE TESTING AT THE BORDER

Surveillance testing is underway for Managed Isolation Facility staff, Border staff (airport staff) and Hospital staff. Border Staff Surveillance Swabbing Centre has been set up at Custom House, 1 Hinemoa Street (South End). This will be open from 8.30am till 4.30pm, including the weekend.

QUARANTINE FACILITIES

Each of our two Managed Isolation Facilities (MIF) has a designated quarantine area for any positive COVID-19 cases, completely separate from other isolating guests. In light of the requirement to quarantine COVID-19 positive cases from the community, we are working through how this will be implemented should a positive case be found.

RHEUMATIC FEVER

As part of your COVID-19 vigilance, please also remember we've seen a spike in Rheumatic Fever in the Wellington region, with nine cases in the first half of the year compared to two cases in the previous year. Given that in the rest of the 'developed' world Rheumatic Fever has been eliminated, this is serious and requires a serious response.

Rheumatic Fever disproportionately affects our Māori and Pacific peoples, and affects children as young as three years old.



Capital & Coast and Hutt Valley DHBs alongside Regional Public Health are running a campaign to encourage people to check sore throats in children. Most often, recurring Group A strep throats will turn in to Acute Rheumatic Fever which in turn can become Rheumatic Heart Disease.

Please share the **attached social media posts** with your audiences, and encourage anyone you know to get sore throats checked. A list of free sore throat clinics is available on the [Regional Public Health website](#).

You can hear Wellington-based GP and Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners Medical Director Doctor [Bryan Betty talking to NewstalkZB on Rheumatic Fever](#) here.

ADMISSIONS TO AGED RESIDENTIAL CARE

Hospitals in Hutt Valley and Capital and Coast are continuing to use the agreed screening tool prior to discharge from hospital to an ARC facility, and the Care Coordination Centre is using the same process for admissions from the Community. While facilities are on lockdown for visitors, admissions to ARC are still necessary and important.

The New Zealand Aged Care Association (NZACA) has issued advice that staff movement between facilities should be limited between ARC facilities. This is advice for your consideration and action.

QUESTIONS

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THANK YOU

Thank you for all you do, and continue to do, every day to keep our communities safe.

Rachel Haggerty

Community IMT