

PANDEMIC COMMUNICATION: COVID-19 PROVIDER NETWORK UPDATE

August 27 2021

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern announced today that all of New Zealand south of the Auckland border will drop back down to COVID-19 Alert Level 3 at 11.59pm on Tuesday 31 August. However, we remain at Alert Level 4 and our response will continue to reflect that, in the work being done to test and vaccinate as many people as possible.

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COVID-19 TESTING AND VACCINATIONS UPDATE

We are publishing the latest numbers for testing in our two DHB regions on our websites and social media each day for the 24 hours prior.

Today’s numbers – 2,637 for CCDHB and 279 for HVDHB, making a total of 2,916 tests processed until midnight 26 August.

Full information around testing sites is available here.

Wellington: <https://www.healthpoint.co.nz/covid-19/wellington/>

Hutt Valley: <https://www.healthpoint.co.nz/covid-19/hutt/>

As well as delivering increased access to COVID-19 testing, over the last week we have also significantly ramped up our vaccination programme in Alert Level 4 protocols. We have increased vaccination capacity by approximately 15% last week and this continues to grow.

We now have 67 clinics in total throughout the region including community clinics, GP clinics, kaupapa Māori led clinics, Group 2 vaccination sites and pop up sites for essential workers.

Full information around vaccination sites can be found here:

Wellington: <https://www.healthpoint.co.nz/covid-19-vaccination/wellington/>

Hutt Valley: <https://www.healthpoint.co.nz/covid-19-vaccination/hutt/>

Check out a drive through in action – courtesy of the team at Tamati Whāngai COVID-19 vaccination centre – our first drive through in Ponoke here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tkVsDPoCWNE&t=20s>

SKY CITY DRIVE THROUGH OPENS SATURDAY 28 AUGUST

Sky City Stadium drive through opens to the public from tomorrow, Saturday 28th August, until Tuesday 31st October – 9am to 5pm each day – with capacity for 1000 or more vaccines per day.

This is an opportunity to encourage people in your household or bubble who are eligible for vaccination to take advantage of a group booking together. Appointments must be booked, maximum four people per vehicle. No bikes, motorcycles or trucks.

Book online at www.BookMyVaccine.nz – enter Pipitea in the location box and select Sky Stadium Drive-Thru Or phone 0800 28 29 26

VACCINATING ESSENTIAL WORKERS AT HIGHER RISK

Ensuring essential workers and other people at higher risk have access to vaccinations has ramped up over the past week. This has seen teams deliver onsite vaccinations to workers at over 50 supermarkets across the region, and onsite vaccinations to Interislander staff. Seven pop-up pharmacy locations also held reserved bookings for essential workers and their families from businesses including NZ Post, NZ Police, public transport workers, and Wellington Free Ambulance. Homeless people and the sex worker community deemed at higher risk are also being offered vaccinations.

DISABILITY RESOURCES

A reminder that the Our disability team has created resources for all our providers, and especially our vaccination and testing clinics, to make the experience of accessing health care as smooth as possible, including communication cards for Deaf and Hard of Hearing people.

These cards are particularly useful during Level 4 when it is more difficult to communicate through masks. These resources can be downloaded here. <https://www.ccdhb.org.nz/for-health-professionals/covid-19-resources-for-our-community-providers/>

Accessible Events – vaccination clinics for disabled people, those with impairments or long-term conditions – continue during Alert Level 4. The call centre for Accessible Events is open 8am-4.30pm Monday to Friday.

For the Accessible Events only those with booked appointments will be able to get vaccinated. To book please **Call:** 0800829935 or **Text only:** 027 281 5017 or email us at: **Email:** CovidVaxAccessibility@ccdhb.org.nz.

E-LEARNING MODULES FOR SUPPORT WORKERS, WHANAU AND VACCINATORS

Getting a COVID-19/Mate Korona vaccine for many, including disabled and autistic people, can cause anxiety and distress, especially when it comes to needles. Healthcare New Zealand has developed free e-learning modules and resources in a range of formats to help people stay calm in the lead up to, and on the day of, vaccination.

You will find the link here: <https://www.healthcarenz.co.nz/service/explore-specialist-advice/preparing-for-the-covid-19-vaccination/>

HOW TO TALK ABOUT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS – BUILDING TRUST

The Workshop has also produced a useful guide for people in health and community roles who want to talk effectively about COVID-19 vaccinations to different groups of people who may be hesitant about getting vaccinated.

You can find it here along with other useful resources including posters:

<https://www.theworkshop.org.nz/publications/how-to-talk-about-covid-19-vaccinations-building-trust-in-vaccination-a-guide-2021>

ADVICE FOR IN-HOME CARERS

The Ministry of Health is advising any person who enters a home to provide care to:

Any person who enters a home to provide care should:

- stay home if they are sick and get tested if they have any COVID-19 symptoms
- practice good hygiene at all times
- maintain physical distancing where possible
- use personal protective equipment (PPE) as appropriate
- keep a record of their visit for contact tracing purposes.

In-home carers are strongly advised to get vaccinated. Those who have not been vaccinated and would like to be, can book online at www.BookMyVaccine.nz or phone 0800 28 29 26

Employers of in-home carers must have appropriate guidelines and systems in place aimed at keeping staff safe in the workplace. This includes following the appropriate workplace health and safety guidelines and notifying a carer if the person they are visiting is sick.

GUIDANCE FOR AGED CARE PROVIDERS

The Ministry of Health has updated its guidance on end-of-life visits.

It has also updated its Alert Level 4 guidance for aged care providers, including:

- Alert Level 4 guidance for aged care services
- Admission into aged residential care facilities
- Visiting aged residential care facilities

Read more here: <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-information-health-professionals/covid-19-aged-care-disability-and-hospice-providers/covid-19-aged-care-providers>

AROHA CARE CENTRE RESIDENTS ARE “TAONGA”

With cars queued far down the road, the Waiwhetu Sports Centre Drive Through COVID-19 vaccination clinic was busy on Wednesday. But two vans pulled up, the crew at the front gate were expecting them and ushered them straight through to the admin stage. The VIPs that went to the front of the queue came from the Aroha Care Centre for the Elderly in Taita. Eight new residents were given their vaccinations and then a 15 minute Observation period.

Trish Watts from Aroha Care Centre said it was wonderful her people received such respect and special treatment. She said she called and asked what could be possible under Alert Level 4. “We spoke with site manager Tim Bignall who couldn’t have been more helpful. We gave all the details of our people to the

Waiwhetu call centre and we were given a time to arrive. Everything about it was easy. The young people we met at each stage were wonderful and made the experience enjoyable for all of us.”

Tim Bignall said it is natural within the tikanga of Atiawa that older people are considered taonga and treated with respect and deference. “We are grateful they came to our clinic.”

ACCESSING A SAFE SLEEP BED DURING ALERT LEVEL 4

Accessing a Safe Sleep Bed during Covid-19 Level 4

Now more than ever it’s important to make sure that whanau welcoming a new pēpi have access to a Safe Sleep Bed & bedding to keep their little one ‘safe to breathe’ while they sleep, and keep up the great work our region is doing with SUDI prevention.

The following providers have Safe Sleep Beds available on-site:

Hutt Valley District Health Board	
Hutt Valley Maternity Ward	HVDHB kaimahi access only
Naku Enei Tamariki	NET kaimahi access only
Kokiri Marae	Kokiri kaimahi access only
Pacific Health Service	PHS kaimahi access only
Plunket	Plunket kaimahi access only
Capital & Coast District Health Board	
Wellington Maternity Ward	LMCs & CCDHB kaimahi access
Kenepuru Maternity Ward	LMCs & CCDHB kaimahi access
Paraparaumu Maternity Ward	LMCs & CCDHB kaimahi access
Plunket	Plunket kaimahi access only
Te Ao Marama Midwifery	TAMM kaimahi access only
Birth Treasure Midwifery	BTM kaimahi access only
Kahungunu Whanau Services	NKKP kaimahi access only
KYS	KYS kaimahi access only
Hora Te Pai	HTP kaimahi access only
Pregnancy Help GW	PHGW kaimahi access only
Maraeroa	Maraeroa kaimahi access only

Providers, please let your Safe Sleep Coordinator know if you are running low so they can organise to replenish your supply.

For support, advice with Safe Sleep messages in the context of social distancing, or questions about how to arrange access to a safe sleep bed for your whanau, please contact:

Hutt Valley Safe Sleep Coordinator: Louisa Waikari louisa@kokiri-hauora.org.nz 021324319

CCDHB Safe Sleep Coordinator: Vic Parsons vic.parsons@ccdhb.org.nz 0272100628

Ngā mihi ki a koutou, thank you for your amazing mahi in this space, supporting the littlest members of our team of five million to thrive and sleep safely during this time.

SHOUT OUT TO OUR MANAGED ISOLATION AND QUARANTINE FACILITY PEOPLE

I would like to acknowledge the outstanding response by Regional Public Health and our health teams who are working hard to support the Wellington cases in managed isolation and quarantine. As always they have

stepped up to the challenge, and are doing a tremendous job caring for people who have had to move from their homes and familiar environments into an unfamiliar environment. This is such an important part of our response, and without them doing what they are doing, we would likely not be moving toward Alert Level 3.

WELLBEING - TOGETHER AT HOME

While we remain in lockdown, it's the perfect opportunity to explore the country we live in from our own home. New Zealand Geographic started up a daily story or video for whanau and friends to share, not just in their bubbles, but online with people elsewhere in the community, region, country or world. It's fun for curious minds of all ages and free to sign up here: <https://www.nzgeo.com/together-at-home/>

Check out what the world looks like for birds – for a titipounamu it's an extra technicolour world from the one we see as humans. <https://www.nzgeo.com/stories/birds-eye-view-2/?source=homepage>

THANK YOU

None of us could have achieved what we have achieved over the last 10 days alone. You all play an important part in this work, and you are all playing your parts so well, with professionalism and kindness. Thank you.

If you have any questions or concerns please email us at COVID-19questions@ccdhb.org.nz and a member of the team will respond. Or you can contact your contract manager.

A reminder that our previous provider updates and any attachments can be found here <https://www.ccdhb.org.nz/for-health-professionals/covid-19-resources-for-our-community-providers/>

Enjoy your weekend. Our next update will be Monday 30th August 2021

Rachel Haggerty

Incident Controller Community IMT