

# PANDEMIC COMMUNICATION: COVID-19 PROVIDER NETWORK UPDATE

August 30 2021

I hope you have all found time with friends and whanau over the weekend. Please continue to follow our Alert Level 4 rules which have brought us to this point where we have not seen any new community cases in the Wellington region. Our tally is at 15, all in quarantine and in the good hands of our MIQ workers.

In this update:

- COVID-19 testing and vaccinations update
- Sky Stadium Drive Through Success
- Maori Vaccination Update – the halo effect
- Change to the length of standard quarantine period
- Reminder about masks
- Wellbeing – looking after our rangatahi, young people
- Positively Pacific
- Disability Equity E-learning module available
- Student volunteer army
- Family Violence
- PPE facts and figures
- Celebrating Success Awards – call for entries

## COVID-19 TESTING AND VACCINATIONS UPDATE

Last week saw 67,000 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine administered in the community – more than double the number administered in our previous biggest week – and now more than half the people across our 2DHB region have received at least one dose. Thank you to everyone who is involved in keeping our communities safe from COVID-19.

Drive through vaccinations is proving to be popular with people around the region. Sky Stadium delivered just over 1000 vaccinations each day on Saturday and Sunday. Waiwhetu Sports Centre in Lower Hutt delivered over 400 vaccinations each day on Saturday and Saturday, and the Porirua drive through prioritising Māori and Pacific peoples was also running at capacity. All other sites are operating well and are also seeing good numbers going through.

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/>

## COVID-19 TESTING NUMBERS

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 – 585 for CCDHB and 38 for HVDHB, making a total of 623 tests processed until midnight 29 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/>

## SKY STADIUM DRIVE THROUGH VACCINATIONS PROVE POPULAR

Wellington City's first drive-through clinic opened at Sky Stadium carpark on Friday 27 August for essential workers and their household bubbles. The clinic then opened daily to the public (of eligible vaccine age 12+) from Saturday 28 August, for booked appointments. It will remain open until Thursday 2 September.

Nearly 2,400 people were vaccinated during first 2.5 days, and bookings are filling up throughout this week.

Our 2DHB GM COVID-19 Response Chris Mitchell says all of those involved worked hard to establish the drive-through clinic and to keep the operation running smoothly.

"The clinic has been successful, with vaccinators, admin security and logistics staff doing an outstanding job."

We also wish to thank the NZ Defence Force, Primary Health Organisation, Wellington Free Ambulance, Red Badge Security, Care Park, First Security and Sky Stadium staff who helped make this such a success.

Bookings for the drive-through vaccination centres in Wellington and Lower Hutt, plus our other open centres can be made via Book My Vaccine or the COVID Vaccination Healthline 0800 28 29 26.

## MĀORI VACCINATION UPDATE – HALO EFFECT

One of the as yet undocumented effects of the COVID-19 vaccination programme is a 'halo' effect seen within the Māori vaccination programme.

Across all Māori providers there are examples of people now working in the vaccination programme with Māori providers who have had their lives and horizons expanded by being involved in a different kind of work. They are people drawn into admin, call centre, driving, and kaiawhina roles who talk about becoming enriched and energised by their work helping their own people in a tangible way.

Some are taking on new skills and are building confidence they have not possessed before. It is likely in the future we will see many who can trace the beginning of their career in Māori health to the introduction given by the vaccination programme.

## CHANGE TO THE LENGTH OF STANDARD QUARANTINE PERIOD

From 27 August, people in quarantine need to remain there for at least **14** days post-symptom onset or positive test result (if they remain asymptomatic). This is an increase from the previous requirement for at least 10 days post-symptom onset or positive test.

The change reflects the prevalence of the Delta variant and the fact it is more transmissible than previous variants. It is estimated that Delta is approximately twice as infectious as the ancestral strain, with positive cases potentially infecting an additional 6 people on average. Recent studies have also shown it is possible that the Delta variant is associated with a longer period of infectiousness.

People released from quarantine must still be cleared by a health professional responsible for monitoring their health and wellbeing. Some exemptions are possible at the discretion of the Medical Officer of Health.

## REMINDER ABOUT MASKS

Please remember that masks are required at all times in healthcare settings, and that continuous (sessional) use is recommended – rather than switching masks between patients – to preserve mask stocks. It helps to drink plenty of liquids prior to your work shift and at breaks to avoid dehydration.

N95 masks are only recommended for clinical staff when taking nasopharyngeal swabs at a primary care practice or CTC when indoors and ventilation is not optimal, or when providing care to a patient with HIS criteria or symptoms of acute respiratory tract infection. Masks (medical masks or N95) should be changed after four hours or if they are soiled or damp.

## WELLBEING – LOOKING AFTER OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

Ministry of Health is making funding available for community-led initiatives that focus on supporting mental resilience and wellbeing when our rangatahi youth need it most. While the priority is young people in Auckland and Northland who are facing a longer period in lockdown than the rest of the country, it is a reminder for us all to ensure support services are easily accessed, and as early as possible.

Youthline's free call 0800 942 8787, text 234 or web chat <http://www.whatsup.co.nz> are available for young people who need to speak with someone about their mental wellbeing. As well, a range of digital self-help tools are available for rangatahi at Melon <https://www.melonhealth.com/manual/>

## POSITIVELY PACIFIC

Please share these links to the Wellington Pacific COVID-19 Response. The Positively Pacific website and social media is a partnership between Pacific health service providers and the three DHBs in the Wellington region – Capital & Coast, Hutt Valley and Wairarapa – and is a trusted source of information for our Pacific communities.

- Website [www.PositivelyPacific.org.nz](http://www.PositivelyPacific.org.nz)
- Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/positivelypacific>
- Instagram - <https://www.instagram.com/positivelypacific/>

## DISABILITY EQUITY E-LEARNING MODULE AVAILABLE TO ALL

The Disability Strategy Team's online e-learning module Disability Equity is available to anyone working in health. The module has three separate topics – Disability Explained, Engaging With Disabled People, and Working With Disabled People.

It can be accessed via the Ministry of Health's LearnOnline website: <https://learnonline.health.nz/login/index.php>  
You will need to create a new account if you don't already have one.

The intent of the Disability Equity module is to promote appropriate interactions with disabled people coming in contact with health services and uses rights-based language to encourage a more open mind-set.

The module reinforces our priority work on equity, and relates directly to people working with patients/clients to provide safe and quality care.

## STUDENT VOLUNTEER ARMY

The Student Volunteer Army restarted its grocery delivery service. To place an order visit [www.shop.sva.org.nz](http://www.shop.sva.org.nz) or call 0800 005 902.

## FAMILY VIOLENCE

NZ Police is reminding everyone about the Silent Solution. If someone is in danger, call 111. If you or someone you know is in danger and it is not safe to talk, Police have the Silent Solution – phone 111 and if you do not speak, you will get the option of pressing 55.

Family violence services and NGOs continue to operate during lockdown, however, assessments are now mostly carried out over telephone. Most of the usual family violence services and NGO support is still available, however, may be delivered differently in order to adhere to COVID-19 health and safety requirements

Please contact services directly for further information. Family violence services in your area can be found on the 'Family Services Directory' website at: <https://www.familyservices.govt.nz/directory/>.

This form of violence can affect every community, therefore, please enquire about family violence with anyone you may suspect of being at risk. Pregnant, disabled and older people (women, in particular) may be at increased risk of violence so do check in with them as appropriate.

## PPE FACTS & FIGURES

The Ministry's national Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and critical medical supply chain has good stocks of PPE, with at least eight weeks' of reserves to meet pandemic demand.

The national PPE supply chain (as of Friday August 27) holds close to 17 million N95/P2 particulate respirators, 275 million medical masks, 17 million isolation gowns, 1.6 million face shields, 271 million nitrile gloves, and good volumes of hand sanitiser, disinfectant wipes and other items of PPE utilised across the health and disability sector.

Since Tuesday 17 August 2021, well in excess of 40 million items of PPE for use in the health and disability sector have been distributed.

## CELEBRATING SUCCESS AWARDS OPEN FOR ENTRY

While you are all in the thick of being innovative and collaborative and doing great things, take some time to look back at the past twelve months at all the great work you've been doing – COVID-19 or non-COVID-19 related. I encourage you to nominate your team, yourself, or someone else in your network, whose work needs celebrating. See the attached pdf for full information.

If you don't want to enter the awards, you are welcome to share your stories or shout outs with us through [COVID-19imtcommunity@ccdhb.org.nz](mailto:COVID-19imtcommunity@ccdhb.org.nz)

## THANK YOU

Thank you for all your amazing work. If you have any questions or concerns please email us at [COVID-19questions@ccdhb.org.nz](mailto: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/>

**Rachel Haggerty**

Incident Controller Community IMT