

## Provider Network Update

September 24 2021

We remain at Alert Level 2. I am delighted to see that our DHBs are now leading first dose vaccination rates across New Zealand, with a significant 80% of eligible people in our region having had one dose. Ka mau te wehi! This has been possible through outstanding collaboration with all of our primary health partners. Our plan now is to increase second doses, and raise vaccination rates within equity groups and for those who are harder to reach.

This update covers:

- COVID-19 testing and vaccination update
- Vaccination for high risk groups
- World Pharmacist Day
- Exemptions to cross the regional boundary
- Funerals and tangihanga at Alert Levels 2 and 3 updates
- Guidance for businesses with 'at risk' or immune compromised staff
- Face coverings, masks and other PPE
- Microbiology resources for infection diagnostics
- Updated easy read information
- Health Sector Reform update
- Maori Health Review Issue 93 – plus attachment
- Postgraduate options in health – online information evening
- Wellbeing – self-care

Any questions regarding this communication may be directed to [2DHBCommissioning@ccdhb.org.nz](mailto:2DHBCommissioning@ccdhb.org.nz) All emails to this email address will be logged and responded to by an appropriate team member.

### COVID-19 TESTING AND VACCINATION UPDATE

#### MĀORI VACCINATION PROGRAMME UPDATE

The ability to identify numbers of Māori in each suburb that are yet to be vaccinated with either a first or second dose has opened up a new level of activity for Māori providers and PHOs. In response to being able to see where unvaccinated Māori are, the providers are moving to go mobile to remove any access issues and be precise about how effort is applied.

#### SHIFT IN MESSAGING REQUIRED

As those who wanted to be vaccinated have been vaccinated, a clearer picture has emerged about who remains to be vaccinated. Effort has been going into researching why people are choosing not to be vaccinated or are hesitant. Māori provider Hora Te Pai is finding changes in messaging and focus helps. They

say it is time to move away from messages about protecting whānau and focus more on asking people to korero about what they are thinking and how they are feeling about getting the COVID-19 vaccination.

Hora Te Pai COVID-19 Vaccination Lead Diane Tatana says people who are hesitant are looking for people to talk to so they can form a view in their own time in their own way because they don't like being thought of as anti-vax and are prepared to be persuaded. She says Hora Te Pai is now ensuring there are people available for them engage with, whom they can learn to trust to provide non-biased grounded information presented in a way they can understand. With hesitant Māori the next weeks will be about face-to-face meetings and discussion.

#### UNICHEM UPPER HUTT PHARMACY VACCINATING TAITA COLLEGE

Taita College in Lower Hutt was among the first schools in the country to host a vaccination hub for its students. The school has a roll of around 400 students. Around 50 students were vaccinated; some had already received their first jab with their parents, while others had decided to get their vaccination because it was easy and convenient to get it done at school.

The school will host another vaccination hub, a drive through event, during the school holidays on October 14<sup>th</sup> between 11am and 2pm.

Pharmacist Duncan Sutherland said it was rewarding to bring vaccinations to the students.

Read the full story here: <https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/126469085/taita-college-among-first-in-the-country-to-vaccinate-on-school-grounds>

In keeping with our pro-equity approach, there is a focus on working with schools with a higher percentage of Māori and Pacific students.

Wider work continues on engaging with other schools across the region.

Teams are working to identify the needs at each school, the vaccination rates in the surrounding community, alongside considerations on timing in the remaining school year, to ensure that there is no interruption to exams and final assessments.

#### TE HERENGA WAKA – VICTORIA UNIVERSITY EVENT

Te Herenga Waka – Victoria University has been hosting a three-day walk in COVID-19 vaccination event which began yesterday and finishes tomorrow, Saturday 25 September.

Today's clinic was hosted by the Pasifika community complete with strumming guitars, singing and dancing. It was great to see the University Pacific team coming together with the 2DHB Pacific team, and Tu Ora Compass team to bring vaccinations to our student, staff and whanau.

You can read more about it here: <https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/health/coronavirus/126483553/pasifika-bring-colour-and-song-to-vaccination-drive-at-victoria-university>

#### SKY STADIUM DRIVE THROUGH & ACCESSIBLE EVENTS

Another drive-through event is being held at Sky Stadium from 1-4 October, which will have capacity to vaccinate around 8,000 people. The focus is on administering second doses to as many of the people who received their first dose at the previous event as possible.

We continue to offer low-sensory and accessible clinics across the region, as well as a variety of sites based at marae, pharmacies, GP practices, community centres and festival events—including our Niue Festival

Vaccination clinic which is set to take place tomorrow in the Hutt Valley. The dates for upcoming accessible events can be found here: <https://www.rph.org.nz/public-health-topics/vaccinate-greater-wellington/disability-events/>.

## VACCINATION FOR HIGH RISK GROUPS

It remains very important for people who are at highest risk from COVID-19, and the people they live with, to get vaccinated as soon as possible. Those at highest risk of severe COVID-19 disease include people with certain health conditions, whose treatment reduces their immunity, are older or pregnant.

Those who are immunosuppressed are encouraged to discuss with their health professional the timing of vaccinations to help gain the best possible immunity.

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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/>

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/>

## WORLD PHARMACIST DAY

Tomorrow, Saturday 25 September, is World Pharmacist Day. This year's theme is 'Always trusted for your health'. Trust is a central part of all human relationships and is also essential to health care. The association between trust in healthcare professionals and health outcomes for patients is significant. So, this is a timely opportunity to thank all of our community pharmacists and their staff for their valuable mahi which has been outstanding as we deal with the challenges of COVID-19 and the sterling efforts in bringing the vaccine to so many people.

## EXEMPTIONS TO CROSS THE REGIONAL BOUNDARY

Personal travel across an Alert Level 3 and Alert Level 2 boundary is still highly restricted. The threshold for an exemption remains very high as we still need to contain the virus.

However, while travel to attend a funeral or tangihanga, accompany a tūpāpaku (deceased person) or visit a dying family member is still not permitted, people in these categories can now be considered for an exemption for personal travel into Auckland. Likewise, there is now also the ability to apply for an exemption for individuals crossing the alert level boundary one way into Auckland to provide support or care to another person who is unwell or childcare where the parents or guardians are returning to work.

Only the Ministry of Health can approve personal travel exemptions to cross an Alert Level boundary. Documentation from other organisations or individuals can be used in support of an application, but do not themselves constitute permission to cross the boundary.

Check for the latest information here: [Exemptions for personal travel across or within an Alert Level boundary](#)

## FUNERALS AND TANGIHANGA ALERT LEVELS 2 AND 3 UPDATES

The Ministry of Health has updated requirements for funerals and tangihanga at Alert Levels 2 and 3. This includes requirements on how many people can attend and travel across alert level boundaries.

[View the Alert Level 2 guidance for funerals and tangihanga](#)

[View the Alert Level 3 guidance for funerals and tangihanga](#)

## GUIDANCE FOR BUSINESSES WITH 'AT RISK' OR IMMUNE COMPROMISED STAFF

The Ministry of Health has published guidance for businesses and organisations that employ workers who might be classified as 'at risk' or immune compromised against COVID-19.

[View the guidelines for businesses and organisations](#)

## FACE COVERINGS, MASKS AND OTHER PPE

The Ministry recommends that health, disability and support workers providing care in health and disability settings wear medical masks at Alert Level 2 and above. This includes care for people in their own homes or in Disability and Aged Residential Care Facilities. Additional PPE may be required depending on the level of risk.

Latest information can be found here: [Information on PPE requirements for specific health and disability care settings](#)

For non-client facing activities, the Ministry encourages health organisations to recommend that their workforces wear face coverings (for example, a mask) in clinical or shared work environments.

All organisations should continue to proactively encourage staff to:

- maintain single person or small bubble groups
- ensure workplaces are well ventilated where possible
- encourage vaccination
- ensure workers stay home if symptomatic or sick
- practice good hand hygiene and physical distancing
- use the NZ COVID Tracer app.

For in-home care, the Ministry recommends that clients and their family and whānau are encouraged, if able, to wear their own face coverings while health, disability and support workers are in their home.

## MICROBIOLOGY RESOURCES FOR INFECTION DIAGNOSTICS

Wellington SCL has created a new set of resources aimed at primary care for users of the lab that are intended to help clinicians select the best tests for their patients when it comes to diagnosing infection. They are intended to help guide users as to when microbiological testing is and isn't indicated and which tests to choose.

There are two main sections: one is focused on the most common sample types we receive in the lab, and the other, called the "How do I diagnose?" section, has information on the best way to diagnose various infections. There is also up to date information on local susceptibility patterns.

The resources are in the "For Referrers" section under "Microbiology resources" on the Wellington SCL website ([www.wellingtonscl.co.nz/for-referrers/microbiology](http://www.wellingtonscl.co.nz/for-referrers/microbiology)).

## UPDATED EASY READ INFORMATION

A range of updated Easy Read information is available on aspects of COVID-19.

Easy Read information uses words and pictures to present information in a way that's easier to understand. This is done to support people with learning disabilities better understand written information.

The most recently updated materials cover aspects of COVID-19 vaccinations, including supporting decision making, and about getting tested for COVID-19.

Access the materials on the [Ministry of Health website](#) or the [Unite Against COVID-19 website](#).

## HEALTH SECTOR REFORM UPDATE

The Transition Unit has launched a new website dedicated to the reform of the health system in Aotearoa New Zealand. You can see it here: <https://www.futureofhealth.govt.nz/>

Future Of Health / Te Anamata o Te Oranga includes all the background to the health reform, news and updates, information targeted specifically for the health sector workforce, and opportunities to participate and engage in the reform programme. It will be regularly updated with information about the progress being made to create our future health system.

This website will host information about the interim Māori Health Authority and Health New Zealand. Over time, it is expected these new entities will develop their own websites and digital channels.

If you want to keep up to date with what's going on in health reform, you can sign up to the Transition Unit's regular newsletter [here](#).

## HEALTH NZ AND MĀORI HEALTH AUTHORITY BOARDS ANNOUNCED

The Minister of Health, Andrew Little, and Associate Minister of Health, Peeni Henare announced appointments to the boards of interim entities the Māori Health Authority and Health New Zealand.

Health New Zealand will be the country's largest employer, bringing together the country's 20 DHBs, a workforce of about 80,000, an annual operating budget of \$20 billion and an asset base of about \$24 billion.

The Māori Health Authority will work alongside Health New Zealand with a joint role in developing system plans, commissioning for primary and community services, and will co-commission kaupapa Māori services. The Māori Health Authority will also work alongside the Ministry of Health in developing strategies and policies that work for Māori.

Full details and bios here:

<https://www.futureofhealth.govt.nz/health-nz/board-interim-health-nz/>

<https://www.futureofhealth.govt.nz/maori-health-authority/board-interim-maori-health-authority/>

## MĀORI HEALTH REVIEW ISSUE 93

The latest Māori Health Review is **attached** and can be viewed online here

<https://www.maorihealthreview.co.nz/mh/Publications/Recent-Reviews/Maori-Health/Maori-Health-Review-Issue-93.aspx>

In this issue are two feature articles on COVID-19 public health strategies and how they may impact on Māori, as well as outcomes from a national hui on heart health equity.

Other highlights include Māori speech-language therapy research, health inequities in indigenous peoples with CKD, and access to care for children with weight issues.

## POSTGRADUATE OPTIONS IN HEALTH – ONLINE INFO EVENING

If you are considering postgraduate study in health and would like to hear more about the options available with Otago in Wellington or via distance learning, register now for our online event.

**When:** 5-7pm, Tuesday 28 September

To view the full schedule and to register in advance please visit: [otago.ac.nz/open-days/postgraduate](https://otago.ac.nz/open-days/postgraduate)

A series of 15-minute presentations will take place across a wide range of subject areas in health. Please share this information with colleagues, staff or others you think may be interested.

## WELLBEING

Next week is Mental Health Awareness Week and is all about connecting with the people in our lives and creating space for conversations about mental health and wellbeing.

Whether it's checking in with a mate, having a kōrero over some kai, or saying hello to a stranger, a little chat can go a long way.

It's important to acknowledge everyone goes through hard times, and sometimes your mental health and wellbeing might not feel as good as you'd like it to. Knowing what can help during these times can make a big difference.

The '*take time to kōrero*' activity ideas for each day during Mental Health Awareness Week are inspired by Te Whare Tapa Whā and the Five Ways to Wellbeing, which are simple strategies proven to boost wellbeing.

Rāhina Monday – reconnect with someone you care about / he hononga tangata, he hononga aroha

Rātu Tuesday – get outside in nature with someone / e puta ki t taiao

Rāapa Wednesday – have a kōrero about Te Whare Tapa Whā / tōku Whare Tapa Whā

Read more about Te Whare Tapa Whā here: <https://mentalhealth.org.nz/te-whare-tapa-wha>

Rāpare Thursday – connect through kindness / takohatia ki tētahi

Rāmere Friday – Come together and reflect / noho tahi, kōrero tahi

## THANK YOU

Thank you for all your mahi. I hope you get to enjoy some time off over the weekend with whānau and friends.

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**

Director, 2DHB Strategy, Planning & Performance