

Provider Network Update

October 22 2021

We remain at Alert Level 2. The days are warmer and growing longer. We will continue to bring you information, and also acknowledge the great work you are all doing to keep our communities safe.

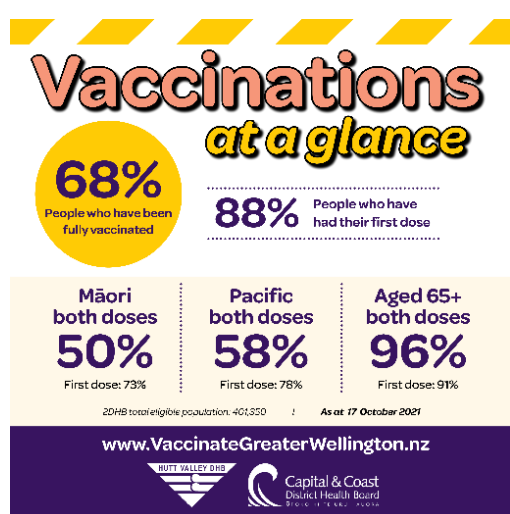
This update covers:

- COVID-19 vaccination update
- COVID Response Protection Framework - plus attachment
- MIQF Dedicated Workforce Guidance – plus attachment
- End of Life Choice Act 2029 Implementation Update
- My Health Passport
- Disability Team input into Whakarongarau
- Healthier Lives webinar – Pathway between research, policy and practice
- Exemptions for facemasks – plus attachment
- Age Concern services resume
- Wellbeing

Any questions regarding this communication may be directed to 2DHBCommissioning@ccdhb.org.nz

COVID-19 VACCINATION UPDATE

SUPER SATURDAY



Thank you to everyone involved in making Super Saturday a success with a total number of doses administered in the 2DHB region 13,561. Our previous best day was 5,666. To date 88% of people in our region have had their first dose, and 68% are fully vaccinated. There were lots of giveaways and food and entertainment to thank people for getting vaccinated. A tremendous turnout.

This effort helped push our overall coverage to more than 88 per cent of people receiving their first dose and 68 per cent fully vaccinated. Kāpiti also became the second local area in the region, after Wellington City, to reach the 90 per cent first dose coverage.

Targeted follow-up events are now being planned based on the data we have around first doses, locations of unvaccinated people and the popularity of different kinds of events.

Read about Super Saturday highlights here:

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/health/coronavirus/300431786/i-did-it-for-my-family-people-out-in-droves-at-wellington-vaccination-events-on-super-saturday>

THIRD PRIMARY DOSE OF COVID-19 VACCINE FOR SEVERELY IMMUNOCOMPROMISED

A third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine that has been recommended for severely immunocompromised individuals aged 12 and older is now available to be accessed.

The eligibility criteria to access a third primary dose is complex and applies to only the group of people who are severely immunocompromised. Individuals who meet the eligibility criteria will need to be prescribed a third dose by their GP or other specialist and present the script when accessing the third primary dose.

Details of access to a third dose for this group of individuals is now available on the Ministry of Health website. <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-vaccines/covid-19-vaccine-health-advice/covid-19-vaccine-severely-immunocompromised-people>

Specific information regarding the eligibility criteria can be found on page 4 of the **attached** clinical guidance.

BMJ STUDY

A [BMJ study](#) which was released last month, based on UK data, showed that of the 40,000 patients hospitalised in the first half of the year, 84% had not been vaccinated and only 3% were fully vaccinated. Our own figures are similar here – of our 188 people hospitalised during this outbreak, just 1.6%, or three people, were fully vaccinated.

INFORMATION SESSIONS ENCOURAGE KŌRERO FOR MĀORI

Many people want to kōrero about the COVID-19 vaccine in a safe environment where they can ask questions of clinical experts. Recent information session evenings held in Wainuiomata and Waiwhetū, Lower Hutt, were tailored to unvaccinated Maori, and provided valuable information that may help people to make their vaccination decision. Key influencers from whānau, who have expressed hesitancy or had questions of a clinical nature, were invited to attend.

Initial feedback has been positive and we are now working with public health organisations (PHO's) and sports clubs to run further information sessions.

Sessions typically starts with a karakia, followed by facilitated Q&A with a Malaghan Institute scientist, GP and clinical nurse involved with COVID-19 vaccinations. Questions are based on what we understand most people want to know, such as what's in the vaccine? What happens to it in your body?

The Malaghan scientist told a compelling story when she revealed she had had COVID herself so she was able to describe what that was like and the long ongoing impacts.

More sessions are planned.

TARGETED VACCINATION EVENTS

UPCOMING RAINBOW EVENTS

Halloween Vaccine Event

Saturday 30 October. Youth 12+ & whanau 11.00am – 3:00pm, Adults 5:30pm -8:30

Lower Hutt Vaccination Centre, 218 High Street Lower Hutt

LOW SENSORY EVENT

Sunday 24 November 10:30 to 1:00pm

Wellington Hearing Association, 16 Kent Terrace, Mount Victoria

A low sensory event with more space, longer appointments, low light noise and scent

Walk in appointments are available but bookings are preferred. Contact us to find out more. Call: 0900 828 835, Text 027 281 5017 or email: 2DHBCovidSGD@ccdhb.org.nz.

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/>

COVID RESPONSE PROTECTION FRAMEWORK

The Prime Minister announced a re-set this morning with the introduction of the COVID Protection Framework (**attached**) providing guidance on how we will control any outbreaks while allowing a high degree of personal freedom and a return to more usual economic and social activity. The framework is intended to provide clarity, enable more activity, and help us all to plan ahead.

The simplified framework has three levels – green: where there is some COVID-19 in the community, orange: to control spread at low levels, and red: to actively bring case numbers down if needed. At all levels of the new framework, businesses, retail, public facilities, and schools will generally remain open for vaccinated people.

The current Alert Level system will be replaced by the new framework when the country has reached the 90% vaccination target.

MIQF DEDICATED HEALTH WORKFORCE OPERATIONAL GUIDANCE

Ministry of Health has reviewed the dedicated MIQ health workforce policy implemented in August 2020 and determined it is no longer required given the range of public health and IPC measures now in place to protect the MIQF health workforce and prevent onward transmission of COVID-19 to the community.

The guidance (**attached**) came into effect yesterday, Thursday 21 October 2021 and applies equally to workers in managed isolation facilities, dual-use facilities, and quarantine facilities.

It means health workers can seek secondary employment in other non-clinical and clinical settings.

END OF LIFE CHOICE ACT IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

RESOURCES AND TRAINING FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

A key part of the Ministry's implementation work is providing training, information and guidance for health professionals to support preparation for the introduction of assisted dying services.

The Ministry's [LearnOnline portal](#) has an assisted dying learning section for health professionals. There are three e-learning modules about assisted dying that all health professionals are encouraged to complete. The modules are:

- [End of Life Choice Act 2019: Overview](#) – this e-learning module provides an overview of the Act, including a practitioner's rights and responsibilities.
- [Assisted dying care pathway: Overview](#) – this e-learning module explains the process for accessing assisted dying, including the roles of different health practitioners.
- [Responding when a person raises assisted dying](#) – this e-learning module is to support practitioners to respond respectfully and appropriately when a person raises assisted dying, including best practice communication skills.

There are [five e-learning modules](#) for medical and nurse practitioners who plan to provide assisted dying services. These cover the assessment process, preparations for an assisted death, assisted death and after-care, and practitioner safety and wellbeing. Practitioners will be required to complete the five e-learning modules to [claim funding under the section 88 notice](#). Practitioners can request access to these modules by emailing AssistedDying@health.govt.nz

In addition, the care pathways for practitioners are now available on the [Ministry website](#) resources section.

HEALTH SERVICE PROVIDER READINESS

Policy guidance is available to support health and disability service providers with planning and preparation for when assisted dying services become legal on 7 November 2021. The policy guidance includes a template that service providers can adapt to their own context and level of involvement in providing assisted dying services.

There are two policy guidance documents, one for district health boards – public hospitals, and one for community and primary care health and disability service providers. They can be found with the [implementation resources here](#).

Health and disability service providers are encouraged to create policies about assisted dying services that support staff to respond appropriately if a person in the service provider's care asks for information about or access to assisted dying services.

The Operational Policy Framework and Service Coverage Schedule have also been updated to clarify the expectations for district health boards for the provision of assisted dying services from 7 November 2021.

ROLE OF PHARMACISTS

Pharmacies have important roles in the community and it will be important for pharmacists and pharmacy staff to have a general understanding of the law, and where to find information should they be asked about assisted dying. Pharmacists in general won't be required to be involved in the dispensing or supply of the medications as part of the Assisted Dying Service.

A centralised pharmacy distribution approach through two district health board pharmacies will enable medications kits to be provided on prescription directly to practitioners delivering the services across the country. For safety reasons the detail of this and the medication regimes will only be provided directly to the practitioners providing the service. Details and names of the medicines will not be made publicly available due to restrictions on promotion and legislative criteria.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Visit the Ministry of health website <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/regulation-health-and-disability-system/end-life-choice-act>
- Sign up to receive the End of Life Choice Act implementation updates <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/regulation-health-and-disability-system/end-life-choice-act/end-life-choice-act-updates>
- Email the programme team eolc@health.govt.nz

MY HEALTH PASSPORT

We have been promoting *My Health Passport* in a number of areas in our hospitals, and many of our nurses are champions for them, but we are finding people are not always bringing them to their appointments. If you have patients, whanau, or friends who have a disability of any kind, encourage them to make use of this valuable tool.



My Health Passport is one of the key tools for ensuring disabled people who are accessing services receive effective healthcare. It informs clinicians, nurses and others involved in the delivery of services how best to accommodate their needs.

Disabled people can choose to share as much or as little of the information as they wish. It is a mechanism to enable both the disabled person and their support person to communicate the assistance they may require, and is especially useful where a person is unable to describe what they need in times of urgency.

My Health Passport includes an Easy Read version and an Express version to ensure it is appropriate for each person who needs one. While it is not a medical record, nor a diagnostic or health management tool, it is a useful document for people to write down any needs they may have or would want health providers to know about them, without having to explain every time.

They are available from the office of the Health and Disability Commission (HDC) here <https://www.hdc.org.nz/disability/my-health-passport/> or from the 3DHB Disability Strategy team:
Email: disability@ccdhb.org.nz Phone: 0800 Disability (34 7224 5489) or Text 021 578 307

They are free to anyone with a disability, or their support person.

WEBINAR – PATHWAYS BETWEEN RESEARCH, POLICY AND PRACTICE

Healthier Lives Science Challenge is hosting a webinar which will explore pathways between health research, policy and practice. It will look at how these pathways connect in other countries and settings, and how they could be streamlined in Aotearoa's new health system. The webinar aims to start a conversation about the

potential for the new health system to deliver better, and more equitable, outcomes for non-communicable diseases through more systematic use of research evidence and health data.

The speakers are leaders in their fields, drawn from a range of health and research organisations in New Zealand and overseas:

- Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall, Associate Minister of Health
- Professor Mary L'Abbé, University of Toronto
- Professor Colin Simpson, Victoria University of Wellington
- Professor Rod Jackson, University of Auckland
- A/Professor Matire Harwood, University of Auckland
- Dr Don Matheson, Deputy-Director General of Public Health and Primary Care Transformation, Ministry of Health
- Dr Ian Town, Chief Science Advisor, Ministry of Health
- Dr Bronwyn Croxson, Chief Health Economist, Ministry of Health
- Professor Sue Crengle, University of Otago and Māori Health Authority
- Professor Sunny Collings, Chief Executive, Health Research Council of New Zealand
- Dr Dianne Sika-Paotonu, University of Otago Wellington
- Professor John Oetzel, University of Waikato

Wednesday 17 November 2021

9.00am – 12.30pm

Zoom Webinar

Free to register – here: https://otago.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_DWOaFY6KTL2sNiQZwzUSgA

DISABILITY TEAM INPUT INTO WHAKARONGARAU

The COVID-19 Vaccination Healthline has made an exciting addition to the team under the guidance of the 3DHB Disability Strategy team. This new service line offers disabled people and their whānau the chance to talk about what accommodations/supports are needed to access vaccinations. This includes facilitating transport to and from the vaccination site, and any other requests people may have.

A team of 12 strong (and growing!) vaccination advisors have been set up in the last 4-6 weeks. This new workforce is made up of employed advisors who are either disabled people themselves or are close allies of the community. Going forward, we aim to employ people from within the disability community so that this service line can be entirely made up of disability workforce.

A mix of learning options; e-learning combined with video briefing with disabled people have been used, with more resources being developed. Calls received so far are helping to demonstrate what further training is needed. Around 800 disabled people and their whanau were helped in the first 15 days of being live.

The Disability Strategy Team has enjoyed partnering with Whakarongorau on this project as it allowed them to apply the resources they have created and what they have learnt while working across the vaccination programme to save reinventing the wheel.

EXEMPTIONS FOR THOSE UNABLE TO WEAR FACE COVERINGS

Face coverings are unsuitable for some people due to a disability or health condition. An exemption card has been developed that you can show when entering shops and other premises.

Exemption cards can be requested from the Disabled Persons Assembly NZ by contacting them on 04 801 9100 or emailing them at info@dpa.org.nz.

Some people will have an exemption card with them to show that a face covering is unsuitable for them. However, exemption cards are not mandatory, so some people will not have one with them. See **attached** for an example of what an exemption card looks like.

Blind Citizens NZ is available for blind, deafblind, low vision, and vision-impaired people. Contact admin@abcnz.org.nz or 0800 222 694. Visit the website at <http://blindcitizensnz.org.nz>

People who are deaf or hard of hearing can contact Deaf Aotearoa at covid@deaf.org.nz

Read more: [COVID-19 - Advice for people who are unable to wear a face covering](#)

AGE CONCERN WELLINGTON REGION SERVICES

- The Visitor Service (AVS) has resumed with adapted safety precautions in place.
- The Companion Walking Service (CWS) has resumed with adapted safety precautions in place.
- Some Steady as You Go exercise classes have resumed where possible

WELLBEING – SLEEP

Don't under-estimate the importance of sleep. One of the main reasons people have trouble falling asleep is because of stress, and thoughts that just won't quit. If you find that your thoughts, worries, or to-do lists keep you up, consider writing it all out before turning in for the night. This may help you feel more organized and perhaps a bit more in control. You could also try keeping a notebook next to your bed in case something pops into your mind as you're trying to fall asleep.

For some interesting reading on sleep, why we need it, and how to sleep better check out Columbia Health <https://health.columbia.edu/content/sleep>

THANK YOU

Thank you for all the great work you are doing. Enjoy the long weekend.

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/>

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