

PANDEMIC COMMUNICATION: COVID-19 PROVIDER NETWORK UPDATE

August 19 2021

We are at Alert Level 4. Please continue to engage with us if we can support you in any way. Our focus is on you, and ensuring you have the information you need, when you need it, in order for you to care for your staff and your clients.

In this update:

- Ensuring access to healthcare
- Access to PPE/Masks plus attachments
- Free masks for clients and whānau
- Tangihanga at Alert Level 4
- COVID-19 Vaccination Programme Update
- COVID-19 Testing Numbers

ENSURING ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

We are using our digital channels to push the message that health care is available at Alert Level 4 and that pharmacies are open as normal. Please keep us informed if you see any other opportunities, or need us to support messaging to your patients and clients. We also appreciate your rapid response in confirming all general practices are open for consultation either virtually or face-to-face as appropriate.

ACCESS TO PPE/MASKS

Apologies for those of you who found the link broken to these links for quick reference guides. These links are now working.

[PPE for primary care/CTCs \(not vaccination programme\) regarding masks](#)

[PPE for swabbing centres](#)

ACCESS TO PPE AT ALERT LEVEL 4

We have been fielding many enquiries about access to PPE and masks.

Providers should be getting PPE supplies from their normal sources or the Ministry of Health portal which can be used under Alert Levels 2, 3, 4. Hopefully you have all set up access to the portal but if not, instructions about how to do that are explained below.

MOH PORTAL DETAILS:

The link to the PPE Portal is <http://healthppe.org/>. This Portal is run through Health Care Logistics (HCL).

Here's what you need to know about accessing the PPE portal and ordering from the Ministry's Central Supply, if you have not yet opened an account.

- To open an account and gain access to the online portal you will need to run through the standard credit process even if you already have an account with HCL, however we are not currently planning to charge for PPE. Please fill out the attached HCL form and email it to mohppeordering@prnzl.co.nz.
- Once an account has been opened, you can access the portal at this link <http://healthppe.org/>. Follow the instructions on the attached information sheet to place orders.
- If you have any issues with opening and accessing your account then please email HCL at mohppeordering@prnzl.co.nz.
- All orders for PPE are assessed and approved against the Principles of Supply developed by the Ministry. These principles and further information on the Central Supply can be found on the Ministry of Health website [Health.govt Covid-19 PPE Principles of Supply](https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-information-specific-audiences/covid-19-personal-protective-equipment-central-supply).

IN SUMMARY USE:

1. Your usual supplier first
2. The MOH website – and portal (<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-information-specific-audiences/covid-19-personal-protective-equipment-central-supply>) for general information.
3. The DHB – if you urgently need supplies and the above two options are not available by emailing RES-PPECOVID19COMMUN@ccdhb.org.nz.

ACCESS TO FREE MASKS FOR CLIENTS AND WHĀNAU

Some of you will be working with clients and whānau who may be experiencing difficulties accessing affordable masks, and therefore essential services. We are keen to work with our provider partners to better understand and respond to the need for free masks within our communities.

Our 2DHB team has a limited supply of single use masks available for providers who are able to distribute masks to clients needing free masks in the next week. Please email Anita Taggart Anita.Taggart@ccdhb.org.nz if you would like a delivery of single use masks in the coming days. We will do our best to accommodate your requests, but please note that our supplies are limited.

We are also keen to work with you to create supply and distribution points for free reusable masks beyond the next week. Again, please email Anita Taggart Anita.Taggart@ccdhb.org.nz if you'd like to discuss the ways the DHB can support creating a supply of reusable masks for your clients and whānau.

TANGIHANGA AT ALERT LEVEL 4

To help prevent the spread of COVID-19, gathering for public funerals and tangihanga is not permitted while New Zealand is at Alert Level 4.

Bereaved whānau from all cultures and backgrounds will find this time challenging, particularly those living in Tāmaki Makaurau or the Coromandel. This makes it even more important to show each other manaakitanga and aroha.

If someone in your whānau or in your bubble passes away, the following steps can help you make the necessary arrangements:

- Contact the health provider/doctor of the person who has passed away — ideally this should be done by someone in the same bubble.
- Get in touch with a local funeral director who will help you organise next steps.

Funeral directors will continue working during Alert Level 4. They will be able to guide you on the best options for your situation, which may include:

- livestreaming services on social media, or videoing them for later viewing
- holding the funeral or tangi after the Alert Level 4 restrictions ease
- holding a memorial service later, when restrictions on hui are lifted and it is safe to do so.

If at any point you feel you need help, please reach out. You can call or text 1737. It's free, anytime, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to talk with a trained counsellor.

You can read the full guidance on tangihanga at Alert Level 4 on our [website](#).

COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAMME UPDATE

Community vaccination activity resumed today operating under Alert Level 4 protocols. It was great to see clinics ramp back up so quickly after being told they were to stand down for 48 hours.

Our Pacific Festival scheduled for this Saturday has been postponed and will be re-scheduled when there is more certainty around Alert Levels and gatherings. However our Disability clinics are going ahead as planned. Further information on these clinics can be found below.

Healthcare workforce is a priority for vaccination, so we encourage everyone who can be, but has not yet been vaccinated, to do so.

We are now vaccinating Groups 1, 2, 3 and people aged 40+. On Wednesday 25th August, the 30+ age band will open. From 1 September all eligible ages (12+) will be able to book their free vaccination appointments. From Friday 20 August, as parents or guardians become eligible to book for a vaccination, they can also book for any 12 - 15-year olds in their whānau. [Find out more](#)

[Vaccinate Greater Wellington](#) website has up-to-date information so we recommend you check it regularly.

Check also the [Positively Pacific website](#) which is a Pacific health information hub for the Wellington region.

ACCESSIBLE VACCINATION EVENTS

Accessible Vaccination Events are vaccination days and times for anyone who has a disability, impairment or long term health condition, and their families, whānau and support workers.

These days and times are specifically set up to be extra accessible, welcoming, relaxed and easy. More information on dates and times for these events can be found on the [Vaccinate Greater Wellington website Disability events page](#).

To book an appointment to get vaccinated at an Accessible Event:

Call: 0800829935 **Text only:** 027 281 5017

Email: CovidVaxAccessibility@ccdhb.org.nz

Note: 12-15 year olds are also very welcome at our Accessible events by using the same contact details and info as above.

12-15 YEAR OLD VACCINATIONS

The vaccine is now approved for 12-15-year olds. This means that any adults who are in Group 3 can book vaccinations for any 12-15 year olds in their whānau, and includes parents of children with disabilities or long term health conditions.

Bookings can be made by visiting [BookMyVaccine.nz](https://www.bookmyvaccine.nz).

12-15 year olds are also very welcome at our Accessible events by using the same contact details and info as above – NOT through BookMyVaccine.

MĀORI COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAMME

The Māori Covid-19 vaccination programme is advancing steadily. The five providers involved have all been adjusting their processes to operate under Level 4 requirements and the surprise has been the ability to match today's capacity and flow under the changed regime with that of days prior to lockdown.

They had anticipated a significant reduction of numbers going through but that hasn't been the case. At the Wainuiomata Clinic, they have rearranged the flow, and reduced the size of reception to increase the observation area. They also moved staff out into the carpark where they greet people who are booked in, allocate their car a number, and then invite people from those cars in sequence to create a regular spaced flow through the clinic.

The Māori clinic at the Waiwhetu Sports Centre has begun experimenting with a drive through vaccination model that will be observed with interest by other providers. All of the Māori providers come with a great deal of experience so the process of adapting has been relatively straight forward.

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 – 827 for CCDHB and 186 for HVDHB, making a total of 1013 tests processed until midnight 18 August.

Full details of CTCs, their locations and opening times can be found here.

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

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

THANK YOU

A lot of information flows through these updates but all updates and any attachments that accompany them can be found here at any time. This is not a public link so you will need to keep it handy.

<https://www.ccdhb.org.nz/for-health-professionals/covid-19-resources-for-our-community-providers/>

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.

And again, I thank you and your teams.

Rachel Haggerty

Incident Controller Community IMT