

PANDEMIC COMMUNICATION: COVID-19 PROVIDER NETWORK UPDATE

August 20 2021

As you are all aware, Director-General of Health Dr Ashley Bloomfield has today announced there are three confirmed cases of the COVID-19 Delta strain in the Wellington region. All three had recently travelled to Auckland and visited a location of interest. All cases are transferring to a managed isolation facility under strict infection prevention and control procedures, including the use of full PPE.

I want to reassure you we have been expecting community transmission in our region, have planned for this, and our pandemic plans are in full operation at Alert Level 4. We will remain at Alert Level 4 until 11.59pm on 24 August.

In this update:

- Call for Workforce
- COVID-19 testing centre locations expanded
- COVID-19 Vaccination Capacity Increase
- Vulnerable workforce advice for ARC and NGOs – plus attachments
- Masks for communities
- Supporting tamariki
- Family Violence awareness
- Shout out to Regional Public Health

CALL OUT FOR WORKFORCE

We have a high need for authorised vaccinators, swabbers, and administrators at a number of existing and new sites across greater Wellington, and are looking for people who are able to step in to these roles over the next 2 weeks. Please note, we do not want to compromise any of your usual services which are still operating under Level 4.

Before offering, please be aware that:

Vaccinators

- We need authorised vaccinators. We are not able to offer training.
- Vaccinators are able to work at vaccination sites as well as their usual role.

Swabbers

- We need people with a clinical background who are able to swab, or who can be trained.
- Swabbers work ONLY in a community testing site. They cannot work in any other setting, so will need to move away from any existing work bubble for the duration.

Administrators

- Rapid training and orientation will be offered for these roles.
- Administrators at a community testing site cannot work elsewhere for the duration.

If you are available:

- Call 0800 829 935
- Email 2DHBCovidRecruitmentCCDHB@ccdhb.org.nz (cc your line manager) and specify VACCINATOR or SWABBER or ADMIN in the subject line.
- Vaccinators will need to be able to work shifts between 8am and 10pm
- Swabbers will need to be able to work shifts between 9am and 6pm

* Note: A prescriber can vaccinate without specific vaccinator training.

The minimum required for administering COVID vaccine is the COVID-19 education for Prescriber Health Professionals – details here:

The COVID-19 education for Prescriber Health Professionals has now been merged with the COVID-19 authorised vaccinator education course. The Immunisation Advisory Centre provides open and free access to this course via our learning management system (LMS), IMAC Learning.
<https://lms.immune.org.nz>

Please create an account on IMAC Learning or log in if you are an existing user. The course can then be accessed from the Training Catalogue.

COVID-19 TESTING LOCATIONS EXPANDED

As expected, we are seeing high demand for testing and stood up three new testing sites yesterday, with a further four testing sites planned.

- Te Papa – 55 Cable Street – open 9am to 6pm (booked appointments and walk ins)
- Lower Hutt Pop Up – Riverbank Carpark – open Saturday 21st August from 9am to 9pm thereafter (booked appointments and walk ins)
- Hataitai Park – Ruahine Street, Hataitai – open 9am to 9pm (booked appointments and limited capacity for walk-ins)

The new testing locations are planned for Kenepuru, Sky Stadium, Upper Hutt and Kāpiti Coast are set to open on Saturday 21st August. We will keep you informed as details become available.

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-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 – 2,020 for CCDHB and 496 for HVDHB, making a total of 2,516 tests processed until midnight 19 August.

COVID-19 VACCINATION CAPACITY INCREASE

We are also working to increase our vaccination capacity with extended days/hours and additional site. A number of our vaccination clinics are opening seven days.

A new vaccination site is being set up at ASB arena in Kilbirnie with the capacity to vaccinate 1000+ per day. It will open tomorrow – Saturday 21st August.

VULNERABLE WORKFORCE ADVICE FOR ARC AND NGOS

Please refer to the attached briefing for advice and guidance around protecting your vulnerable workforce. We are confident you have plans for this scenario and keeping health services running, so while we are reviewing our own processes we are taking this opportunity to share those with you.

MASKS FOR OUR COMMUNITIES

Further to our advice yesterday around masks and those people in our communities who may have difficulty accessing masks, Ministry of Health suggests the use of scarves or bandanas as a suitable option. It is recommended these are folded three times before tying to get as tight a fit as possible.

Whatever type of mask people are wearing, please remind them:

- Never share face masks with other people.
- Face masks should not be worn by young children or anyone unable to remove them without assistance.
- Face masks should not be worn by people who have trouble breathing.

The Ministry of Health links below have some useful advice.

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-health-advice-public/covid-19-use-masks-and-face-coverings-community>

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-health-advice-public/covid-19-use-masks-and-face-coverings-community#types>

This video is also a great resource to share with your communities as a how-to guide on making face masks with scarves or bandanas - https://youtu.be/44O1jrnrm_I

For people who are unable to wear a mask, they may feel more comfortable showing something official to confirm they cannot wear a face covering. You can download a card from the Disabled Persons Assembly NZ, or contact them on [04 801 9100](tel:048019100) or at info@dpa.org.nz

[Download exemption card for face coverings](#)

SUPPORTING TAMARIKI

Sparklers - <https://sparklers.org.nz/parenting/> - is a free online wellbeing resource comprising of over 80 activities that are helping tamariki manage their emotions, feel good, be kind and build better relationships. Full of fun ideas and activities for supporting whānau. There is also good information around talking to tamariki about COVID-19 and why we are back in our bubbles, especially relevant now we have cases in our community.

FAMILY VIOLENCE AND COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS

Family violence is understood to escalate and intensify during COVID-19 lockdown restrictions (<https://nzfvc.org.nz/covid-19/FAQ-part-1>) so please be aware of the support available for people in need:

- Hospitals will continue to respond to family violence in accordance with the Ministry of Health's 'Family Violence Assessment and Intervention Guideline'
- 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 service and NGO support is still available, however, may be delivered differently to enable them 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.

REGIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH

I want to acknowledge the enormous part Regional Public Health plays in our COVID-19 response. The team has been supporting Auckland Regional Public Health in its work with Managed Isolation Facilities and is working through contact tracing and identifying locations of interest pertaining to our three community cases here in Wellington.

THANK YOU

You are all doing a wonderful job, so please keep doing what you are doing so well – following Alert Level 4 protocols and continuing to deliver services consistent with these protocols. Thank you.

ANY QUESTIONS?

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