

# PANDEMIC COMMUNICATION: COVID-19 PROVIDER NETWORK UPDATE

August 23 2021

There were two further cases in Wellington confirmed today bringing our total cases in the Wellington community to six. We will remain in Level 4 until midnight Friday 27<sup>th</sup> August pending further review.

In this update:

- Call for Workforce
- Childcare support
- COVID-19 testing centre locations
- COVID-19 Vaccination observation period reduced to 15 minutes
- Second drive through vaccination clinic being established
- Accessibility guidance, tools and resources
- Support to access food
- PPE Supplies
- Funerals and tangihanga at Alert Level 4

## CALL FOR WORKFORCE

Thank you for the great response we have had since we expanded our swabbing and vaccination capacity. Please get in touch if you are able to give some time. Demand is high and so is our 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.

More information can be found in our Provider Update of 21 August which you can find here:  
<https://www.ccdhb.org.nz/for-health-professionals/covid-19-resources-for-our-community-providers/>

## CHILDCARE SUPPORT

Workers who have children aged up to 13-years-old can access free care so they can continue to provide essential services during the current lockdown. This is for the workers in Alert Level 4 businesses and services, and other exempted services such as fire and emergency and border workers.

The scheme is also only for Level 4 workers who do not have childcare in place – parents are expected to use their own private arrangements where possible.

A list of 32 providers, with national coverage, is now available for parents to contact. These providers may offer options for childcare under the scheme either in the child's home, or in the carer's home. The scheme aims to provide as much flexibility as possible for those workers who need it.

These are all licensed services that usually provide home-based early childhood education, meaning all safety checks have been done and each carer will be limited to caring for children from a total of one family only. The funding is available for childcare provision where there is no other adult in the worker's household who can care for the child, and the carer does not normally live at the same address as the worker.

More information, including how to contact a provider, can be found here: [Childcare for Workers of Alert Level 4 Business or Services Scheme – Education in New Zealand](#).

## COVID-19 TESTING LOCATIONS

Incredible work being done around the region to get everyone tested. Thank you all for the hard work, and smooth running of the sites from adapting existing sites to Alert Level 4 protocols, to standing up new sites and getting them operational.

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 – 3,406 for CCDHB and 454 for HVDHB, making a total of 3,860 tests processed until midnight 22 August.

## VACCINATION OBSERVATION PERIOD REDUCED TO 15 MINUTES

The observation period after COVID-19 vaccinations will now be a minimum of 15 minutes instead of 20 minutes. This change will enable us to keep our vaccination plans on track as we move through alert levels, while maintaining patient safety and without putting additional pressure on the workforce to keep clinics open longer.

This is the same observation period that we use in New Zealand after other vaccines, such as the influenza vaccine. Other countries also use a minimum 15-minute observation time, such as United Kingdom and United States.

There are still some people who may require a longer observation time, for example if you had a previous reaction to vaccines, such as anaphylaxis.

## SECOND DRIVE THROUGH VACCINATION CENTRE - PORIRUA

After a successful launch of Drive-Through vaccination at the Waiwhetu Sports Centre Clinic over the weekend where 600 people were vaccinated in their cars, another Drive-Through is being developed by Ora Toa in Porirua this week.

The venue will be a supermarket covered carpark that allows for multiple lanes. A short four-hour trial will be run focusing on Maori and Pacific communities associated with Ora Toa to test how well the concept is received. Learning from that test day will flow into full day Drive-Through clinics that will follow.

One of the learning curves from the weekend Drive-Through was to have battery packs available for jump starting.

## ACCESSIBLE EVENTS

Accessible events for those with disabilities, impairments or long-term health conditions are still operating in Level 4. For more information about the schedule of events and how to book please [read more here](#)

## ACCESSIBILITY GUIDANCE, TOOLS AND RESOURCES

We know that some people who have a disability or health condition may not be able to wear a face covering safely or comfortably. If you cannot wear one, you can get an exemption card. You can show your exemption card when needed, for example to a bus driver. This card is not required, but is available for anyone who would like to use it. However, the Ministry of Health encourages people to do the right thing and only use this Exemption Card if needed.

Please be aware that you may encounter people using this exemption card when they interact with your service.

You can request a card from the Disabled Persons Assembly NZ by contacting them on 04 801 9100 or at [info@dpa.org.nz](mailto:info@dpa.org.nz). If you would like the physical version sent to you, you can request this and give your postal address when you contact DPA.

Mask/face wearing exemption information and explanatory video in NZSL can be found here: <https://www.ccdhb.org.nz/your-health/disability-and-deaf/exemption-cards/>

## ACCESS TO MASKS

If any Disability-related NGO wants to get masks or other PPE for their staff or clients they can use the MoH portal (following the instructions you have already circulated – just specifying NGOs can access it too). We are also setting up a system to provide masks for any disability community members that may need a mask and are unable to get one due to cost or transport/mobility reasons.

Please contact [leo.goldie-anderson@ccdhb.org.nz](mailto:leo.goldie-anderson@ccdhb.org.nz) if

- 1) You know of disability community members who are unable to access a mask for themselves or their whānau
- 2) Your organisation is willing to be a distribution point for free masks for your clients, or disability community members
- 3) You know of any community organisations or groups making cloth masks that would be interested in partnering with us to get high quality masks to those who need them

## EXPERIENCING ACCESSIBILITY ISSUES

If anyone is hearing about, seeing or experiencing accessibility issues with testing, vaccinations, or accessing healthcare during Alert Level 4 please get in touch with [leo.goldie-anderson@ccdhb.org.nz](mailto:leo.goldie-anderson@ccdhb.org.nz) and let us know. The Disability team is prioritising the “word on the ground” information we’re getting from the community about where access issues arise during Level 4.

CCDHB website has downloadable printable cards to have at your facility, and these will also be promoted to the general public through digital channels to encourage people to have them with them, either print them or show them on their phone screen. They say ‘Hello! I’m Deaf’ with a QR code for accessing an interpreter, or ‘Hello! I’m hard of hearing’ with similar message. These cards are enormously helpful if you have patients or clients who are Deaf or hard of hearing.

## SUPPORT TO ACCESS FOOD DURING LOCKDOWN

Some of your clients may not have access to adequate food supplies and essential household goods during the lockdown period. If anyone you're working with needs food urgently (eg in the next 24 to 48 hours), a local foodbank may be able to help. You can find your local foodbank by searching on the Family Services Directory website: [Family Services Directory website](#)

If you have tried and can't access support through any of the options above, contact your local Civil Defence and Emergency Management (CDEM) Group. Go to: <http://www.civildefence.govt.nz/find-your-civil-defence-group/> for details.

## PPE SUPPLIES

It is important you ensure you have at least two days' supply of PPE on hand. The process for accessing PPE was outlined in our Provider Update 19 August 2021 here <https://www.ccdhb.org.nz/for-health-professionals/covid-19-resources-for-our-community-providers/provider-update-3-19-august-2021.pdf>

Essentially, the three steps are:

1. Your usual supplier first
2. The MOH website – and portal (<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-andconditions/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 <mailto:RES-PPECOVID19COMMUN@ccdhb.org.nz>

## PPE FOR VACCINATORS

A reminder that N95 masks are available for primary care for activities where they are required.

These activities are

- assessment of people with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 infection
- swabbing for Covid-19

Please note: N95 masks are **not** required for giving COVID-19 vaccinations or other no-respiratory/COVID-19 presentations.

## REMINDER FUNERALS AND TANGIHANGA ARE NOT PERMITTED AT ALERT LEVEL 4

A reminder that gathering for funerals and tangihanga is not permitted at Alert Level 4. This means whānau and friends are unable to go to the funeral home for viewing, karakia, or mihi. They are also unable to go to the urupā or cemetery for burial.

Funeral directors will be able to guide whānau on the best options for their situation, which may include:

- livestreaming services or videoing them for later viewing
- holding a funeral or tangihanga after Alert Level 4 restrictions ease
- holding a memorial service later when it is safe to do so.

I know this will be incredibly difficult for many of our whānau, and our thoughts go out to those who are grieving the loss of a loved one right now.

If you ever feel you are not coping, it is important to talk with a health professional. For support, you can call or text 1737. It is free, anytime, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to talk with a trained counsellor.

For trusted information about protecting whanau go to the Karawhina website:

<https://karawhina.nz/>

## THANK YOU

I am hearing fabulous feedback from all over about the hard work and outstanding response you are an essential part of, and that our communities are engaged and feel heard.

## ANY QUESTIONS?

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