

# PANDEMIC COMMUNICATION: COVID-19 PROVIDER NETWORK UPDATE

August 26 2021

The number of community cases in Wellington community is now at 14 and we are now in our second week of Alert Level 4. I just want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the extra hours people are putting in to the COVID-19 response. Keep taking care of one another. Remember it's a marathon not a sprint.

In this update:

- COVID-19 testing numbers
- Funding continuity
- Message from Dr Junior Ulu Director of Pacific Health
- Access to purple vaccination cards
- Mobile-based vaccine monitoring survey launched
- Continuing with childhood immunisations
- Masks for communities
- Wellbeing

## 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 – 3303 for CCDHB and 389 for HVDHB, making a total of 3,303 tests processed until midnight 25 August.

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/>

## FUNDING CONTNUITY FOR ESSENTIAL AND NON-ESSENTIAL SERVICES

We will continue funding all contracted providers to ensure provider sustainability and stability of your healthcare workforces both now and in the recovery phase of this current outbreak of COVID-19. We expect essential services continue to be delivered, particularly essential services in Mental Health, maternity, immunisation, and in the support and care of our older and/or vulnerable populations. We support delivering services virtually if necessary, but we do need to maintain services where possible to ensure that our hospital level services do not become overwhelmed.

Where non-essential services can be safely deferred, please do so. If you employ staff funded by the DHB who cannot deliver services against your contract, but can provide services to other essential areas, we ask that they are re-deployed. You will continue to be funded as if you are delivering the contracted service.

If you have any questions your contract manager will be more than happy to work them through with you.

**MESSAGE FROM TANGALOA DR JUNIOR ULU – DIRECTOR PACIFIC PEOPLES HEALTH**

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact on Pacific communities in New Zealand. As our people also experience worse health outcomes, this is a worrying time, and so the Pacific team has doubled down on our efforts to make sure families are tested and vaccinated.

Each day we hold a stand-up meeting to establish what is most needed, together with government departments, inter-agency organisations, and crucially with our Pacific Health providers, which are our direct link to Pacific communities. As well as running much of our local vaccination and testing, they are getting masks and support packages to people who need them. I cannot thank them enough for what they are doing.

They have also ramped up vaccination rates, with the Pacific-focused Cannons Creek vaccination site increasing its vaccination rate from 100 people a day last week, to 700 a day. Run by Pacific Health Plus and Pacific Union and Community Health Service, they were able to accomplish this increase thanks to extra staff and structural resources.

As we are not able to run any of our mass vaccination Pacific ‘festival days’ under level 4, we have rapidly changed our approach. Today saw a vaccination drive-thru at North City Plaza in Porirua prioritising Māori, Pacific, and Disabled people, facilitated by Ora Toa, Pacific Health Providers, and Whitireia School of Nursing.

On behalf of the executive team, I would also like to say a massive thank you to everyone for all the support you are giving to the COVID-19 efforts – those who are carrying out testing and vaccination, and those keeping the home fires burning in our hospitals and communities.

**PACIFIC PEOPLES TURN UP BY THE CARLOAD FOR DRIVE THROUGH VACCINATION**

Unsurprisingly the drive through vaccination event at Porirua today had an overwhelming response. Read the Herald article here: <https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/pacific-community-queue-at-porirua-drive-through-vaccination-clinic/MAAQAMKEPH42A42NGKINF4A3NA/>



**PURPLE VACCINATION APPOINTMENT CARDS**

Purple vaccination appointment cards should still be given out to people through all the Covid-19 Alert Levels.

During Alert Level 4, some clinics preferred not to give out cards due to infection control measures. We now have clear guidance that it is still safe to give out collateral such as vaccination cards as clinical safety protocols should be in place. We have asked all the vaccination sites to continue to provide vaccinations cards.

**Additional cards can be ordered by emailing:** [2DHBCOVIDLogistics@ccdhb.org.nz](mailto:2DHBCOVIDLogistics@ccdhb.org.nz) The cards take time to print and courier, please provide at least one weeks-notice that you will run out of cards.

If you have ordered cards and are still waiting for them, please get in touch through the email above or through [COVID-19questions@ccdhb.org.nz](mailto:COVID-19questions@ccdhb.org.nz) and a member of the team will respond.

## MINISTRY OF HEALTH LAUNCHES MOBILE-BASED VACCINE MONITORING SURVEY

The Ministry of Health recently launched the Post Vaccine Symptom Check, a mobile-based survey that will help monitor reactions to the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine in New Zealand.

Up to 10% of New Zealanders who receive a dose of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine will be randomly selected to participate in the survey. A text message will be sent from the Ministry of Health six days after each dose of the vaccine and 43 days after the second dose, to ask whether they had any reactions to the vaccine. Participation in the survey is optional.

The Ministry of Health's Post Vaccine Symptom Check will run daily for the remainder of the COVID-19 Immunisation Programme. Data collected from the survey will be grouped and anonymously displayed on the Medsafe website once there is enough data to report, likely by late-September. Responses to the survey are being captured for data purposes only and individual cases will not be followed up.

Patients and healthcare professionals should continue to submit reactions to any vaccine or medicine on the [CARM website](#).

## CONTINUING WITH CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION

It is important that pregnancy, infant and childhood immunisation remain a priority as New Zealand's immunisation rates have been recently been declining. We saw coverage drop following lockdowns last year, with disparities by ethnicity and deprivation particularly leaving many tamariki Māori and Pacific children vulnerable. If you have any questions get in touch with [immunisation@health.govt.nz](mailto:immunisation@health.govt.nz)

## GUIDANCE FOR THE USE OF PPE WHEN IMMUNISING IN GP CLINICS

- Follow the same process as when managing patients coming into clinics in Alert Level 4 with no respiratory issues. This includes a pre-appointment screening for COVID-19 risk.
- We recommend the healthcare worker to use a medical mask.
- Where at all possible, vaccinate at the side of the child.
- Perform hand hygiene, it is not necessary to wear gloves gown or eye protection, **but** you should follow your own clinic's IPC protocols.
- Depending on your clinic circumstances, you may wish to consider offering vaccination services in cars. IMAC is developing further advice to support this option.

## GUIDANCE FOR THE USE OF PPE WHEN IMMUNISING IN GP CLINICS

While each provider will have their own guidance and protocols in place for use of PPE, our advice is set out in the [Ministry of Health COVID-19 PPE guide for community care providers working Alert Levels 3 and 4](#), attached to Provider Update 8, yesterday.

This states that when caring for someone who is not a probable or confirmed COVID-19 case, and does not meet the Clinical and Higher Index of Suspicion (HIS) Criteria<sup>1</sup>, hand hygiene and wearing a mask are required. Please note that at Alert Level 4, everyone with respiratory symptoms is considered high risk.

Always pre-screen for COVID-19 risk before making a home visit.

## MASKS FOR COMMUNITIES

Mareta Taute, our 2DHB Māori COVID-19 vaccination programme lead, hapu mama on maternity leave, has made a simple 'how to' make a mask from a bandana. You can see it here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=igQ03c1rPXc>

Good to see local faces in local places, so please share this video with your networks. Thank you to SPP's Maori Health Service Planning & Integration Manager, Korena Wharepap-Vulu and her daughters for producing the video, and to Rob Ruha for his waiata.

If you have made any videos you would like us to share, please reply to this email and let us know.

## WELLBEING



Lockdown can leave people feeling irritable, frustrated, anxious or worried – all normal reactions to an abnormal situation. Le Va has some excellent resources in a variety of formats here: <https://www.leva.co.nz/our-work/catchyourself/> as well as an interactive website to help people make informed decisions around getting vaccinated here: <https://www.leva.co.nz/protect-your-bubble/>

## THANK YOU

It's always good to reflect on just how much good work is going on; work which relies on us being healthy both mentally and physically. Thank you for all that you and your colleagues are doing.

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