

# PANDEMIC COMMUNICATION COVID 19

## COMMUNITY PROVIDER CONTRACTS

CONTINUITY OF FUNDING FOR ALL COMMUNITY PROVIDERS

This update is prepared by the Capital & Coast, Wairarapa and Hutt Valley District Health Boards. It is consistent with Ministry of Health advice. The Ministry of Health remains the definitive source of information.

Any questions regarding this communication must be directed to [COVID-19Questions@ccdhb.org.nz](mailto:COVID-19Questions@ccdhb.org.nz). All emails to the COVID-19 email address will be logged and responded to by an appropriate team member. Please also copy in your normal programme or contract manager.

### PURPOSE OF THIS ADVICE

As DHBs we are committed to the sustainability of our health sector to serve our communities. We do understand the importance of confidence in your funding stream to support your patients, clients, families and whānau. We also know that most services we provide are a mix of essential and non-essential services. In this communication we confirm funding continuity within your existing contracts; whilst implementing the required cessation of non-essential services to protect the safety of our communities by reducing the risk of spreading COVID-19.

In this communication we cover:

- Funding Continuity
- Essential & Non-Essential Services
- Workforce Centre

### NEW ZEALAND COVID-19 ALERT LEVEL SYSTEM

The Government has introduced a 4 tiered alert System for COVID -19;

- **Alert Level One** is where COVID-19 is here, but contained. In this phase we prepare. The basics, like border measures, contact tracing and cancelling mass gatherings are activated.
- **Alert Level Two** is where the disease is contained but the risks are growing because we have more cases. We move to reduce our contact with one another. We increase our border measures, and we cancel events. Now we ask people to work differently if they can, and cancel unnecessary travel.
- **Alert Level Three** is where the disease is increasingly difficult to contain. Now we restrict our contact by stepping things up again. We close public venues and ask non-essential businesses to close.
- **Alert Level Four** is where we have sustained transmission. We eliminate contact with each other altogether. We keep essential services going but ask everyone to stay at home until COVID-19 is back under control.

# NEW ZEALAND IS CURRENTLY AT ALERT LEVEL 3

WE WILL BE AT ALERT LEVEL 4 AT 11.59PM ON WEDNESDAY 25 MARCH 2020

## FUNDING CONTINUITY

As one of your funders we are committed to supporting your organisation to continue providing services to the community. However, we are mindful that your capacity to continue delivery of these services may be reduced as we move into Alert Level 3 and Alert Level 4 as a result of increased demand for essential services, workforce availability and/or ceasing non-essential services.

## CONTINUED FUNDING FOR ALL CONTRACTED SERVICES

It is important that services remain sustainable and that you are able to retain and pay your staff over this period of time. We want to assure you that we will continue to pay your organisation for the contracts we fund you for, whether they are determined to be essential or non-essential services.

## CONTRACT AND FUNDING QUERIES

For all queries regarding your contracts and funding arrangements please contact your Contract Manager in the first instance. While they are all working remotely from home they are connected into our central system and will continue to operate normally.

## ESSENTIAL AND NON-ESSENTIAL SERVICES

Your contract manager has been involved in a process to determine which contracts we consider 'essential' and 'non-essential' services during this COVID-19 pandemic. They will contact you by phone (if they have not already done so) to discuss this with you. We do assume you are continuing essential services that keep your patients and clients safe.

Once non-essential and essential services have been agreed this will be confirmed by email so we have a clear record of which services we have agreed to continue and which services will be stopped during the COVID-19 response.

## NON ESSENTIAL SERVICES

For those non-essential services where delivery will be stopped we would like you to consider two things:

- Is there a different way you could deliver the service (i.e. using technology rather than face to face);
- If you cannot deliver the service in a different way, can the affected staff in these services be released to work on COVID-19 related activity? This may include being redeployed to other organisations on an as needed basis. (See section below on Workforce Centre)

We also recognise that you may need to redeploy staff to cover essential services where there are higher than normal levels of sick leave, or staff who are unable to work.

## ESSENTIAL SERVICES

There are a number of services we fund that we would consider essential. These include primary care services, hospital services, palliative care facilities, all residential facilities (such as aged residential care and mental health residential facilities) immunisation services, pharmacies, and whether you are delivering services to

priority populations. This includes supports for patients, clients and their families to be safe and access the care they need.

## WORKFORCE CENTRE FOR COVID-19

Capital and Coast and Hutt Valley DHBs have established a central team who are responsible for supporting workforce needs across the region. This office is based in Hutt Valley DHB. We have recently added a small team that will focus on supporting the workforce needs of our community sector.

If you need additional staff for your essential services or you have staff that can be redeployed to other organisations/projects either on an ongoing basis or one-off pieces of work please direct them to

[COVID-19CommWorkforce@ccdhb.org.nz](mailto:COVID-19CommWorkforce@ccdhb.org.nz).

While there is no guarantee that staff will be available a centralised register will allow us to maintain oversight of need and risk across essential services.