

31 May 2024

Kia ora koutou,

Thank you for your continued commitment to providing services to support New Zealanders to manage COVID-19.

COVID-19 Care in the Community Primary Care Services

COVID-19 antiviral medicines remain free and available for people with a higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19. See [here](#) for eligibility criteria.

The COVID-19 Care in the Community Primary Care Services schedule you currently hold with Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora is due to expire on 30 June 2024.

Beyond 30 June 2024, Health NZ will continue to transition its health response to COVID-19 so it is managed in a similar way to other communicable diseases.

As a result, we wish to notify you that your Agreement for these services will not be renewed beyond 30 June 2024.

Ongoing provision of COVID-19 vaccination services

The Letter of Agreement you currently hold with Health NZ for the provision of vaccination services to the community will expire on 30 June 2024.

Free COVID-19 vaccinations will remain available to those who meet the [Pharmac eligibility criteria](#) from 1 July 2024 until further notice. Pharmac may choose to consult on proposed changes to eligibility criteria in the future.

As a key provider of this service, please accept this communication as notification of our intent to renew your Agreement from 1 July 2024.

The Health NZ contact person for your contract for the provision of COVID-19 vaccination services will be in contact again in June to discuss the terms and conditions of your renewed Service Agreement.

Update on access to RATs

Earlier in the year you were informed that RATs from the Health NZ Central Supply remained available for you to access up until 30 June 2024. Please note, RATs will continue to be available for you to order until 30 September 2024 – you can replenish your stock as needed through the normal process.

RATs from the Central Supply will also remain available to the public via our Distribution Provider Channel until 30 September 2024.

Update on access to PPE

As signalled in previous communications, from 1 July 2024 PPE will no longer be available for you to order from the Health NZ Central Supply and you will need to source these products from the private market.

Up until 30 June 2024, you can continue to order PPE through the normal process.

Please note, orders are monitored and quantities ordered are to be based on providers' normal usage requirements for the management of COVID-19.

Key changes from 1 July 2024

With the end of several funded COVID-19 services from 1 July 2024, these are the important changes for you to be aware of:

- Primary Care providers (general practice, hauora providers and urgent care) will no longer be able to claim for funded COVID-19 related consultations. Consultations for COVID-19 will be treated like other respiratory illnesses and attract co-payments as for other similar conditions.
- Existing community pharmacy funding arrangements cease on 30 June 2024, but consideration is currently being given to how community pharmacies can be supported to continue supplying COVID-19 antivirals from 1 July 2024.

We are engaging with key representatives from your sector to discuss these changes.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the invaluable mahi you have undertaken to support the people in your community over the past few years.

As a provider of COVID-19 services, you have played an integral and valued role in the success of the health response to COVID-19 and we appreciate the dedication and effort you have shown over a long period of time.

If you have any queries about these changes, please send an email to:

primary.care@tewhatuora.govt.nz and a member of the Living Well Commissioning Team will be in contact to assist.

Ngā mihi



Matt Hannant
Acting National Director
National Public Health Service