

The weekly newsletter of Auckland PHO provides details of events, meetings, clinical information and PHO Programmes to our Practices

### COVID 19

What a week! With four confirmed cases to date, the country is on high alert!

Yesterday, most of our practice network received their PPE packs. If not yet received, they will be delivered on Monday by your Practice Facilitator. Please use these packs ONLY in the event of a suspicious case of Covid-19. There is no certainty about further stock supply at this stage as China, and particularly Wuhan are the main suppliers of PPE and there is a current ban on export of PPE from China.

Information about Case Definition is updated daily on Auckland Regional HealthPathways and the MoH website. There is a very good FAQ on the MoH site to refer patients to:

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-novel-coronavirus-health-advice-general-public/covid-19-novel-coronavirus-questions-and-answers>

We have recommended that each practice thinks about –

- Adding Covid-19 messaging to your website and answerphone message. A sample message has been provided by Practice Facilitators. If you would like the script emailed please contact Priscilla [priscilla@aucklandpho.co.nz](mailto:priscilla@aucklandpho.co.nz)
- Removing toys and magazines from the waiting room
- Check that your Patient Portal provider has a message that informs patients to call ahead and not make portal appointments if they have travelled to countries of concern and are not feeling well
- That signs are clearly placed so visible to people entering the practice
- If you are notified that one of your patients is a confirmed case, please email our Clinical Director, Charlotte Harris, [charlotte@aucklandpho.co.nz](mailto:charlotte@aucklandpho.co.nz)

The DHBs and PHOs in Auckland are all working closely together to plan the next steps should the virus spread more widely and affects the Primary Care workforce. We will send email updates as necessary to you and the MoH will provide a daily briefing at 1pm.

If you need advice regarding swabbing, stocks of PPE or anything else, please call Auckland PHO, 379 4022.

### INFLUENZA 2020

The 2020 Influenza season commences on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020. You are unable to immunise or make any claims for funded influenza prior to this date. Influenza packs from the Immunisation Advisory Centre will be sent to you next week.

The influenza vaccine this year is Afluria Quad for those over 3 years and Afluria Quad Junior for those under three years. These packs are larger than previous years, and as such be mindful of your vaccine fridge space.

Influenza strains 2020

- A/Brisbane/02/2018 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus
- A/South Australia/34/2019 (H3N2)-like virus
- B/Washington/02/2019-like virus
- B/Phuket/3073/2013-like virus

### MESSAGE FROM THE PHARMACY GUILD RE PANIC ABOUT MEDICINE SHORTAGES

Please reassure patients there is no need to panic about medicine shortages due to coronavirus and there is no need to request early prescriptions to stockpile medicines at home.

They have received calls from members that community pharmacies have started to notice patients getting early prescriptions from their doctors and presenting for a 3 month supply, when they have only used one month of their existing supply of medicine. There is also an increasing number of patients requesting early repeats of medicines giving the reason “because medicines are going to run out due to coronavirus”.

We are concerned this excess demand will create an imbalance to the national medicine supply chain and result in unnecessary stock shortages. By working together to manage this situation we can avoid unnecessary inequities to access of life saving medicines.

### SIGHMA: ADHB ADULT MENTAL HEALTH SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

**Date:** Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020

**Time:** 6.00pm – 8pm

**Venue:** Hobson Room, Level 1, Jubilee Building, 545 Parnell Road

**Topic:** **Recognising emerging psychosis and managing the First Episode of Psychosis “the Role of the GP”** by **Dr Thomas O’Flynn, Simon Judkins & Jonathan Embleton** – Psychiatrist, Lead Clinician & Clinical Team Leader ADHB Hapai Ora (Early Intervention Team)

**Launching New Pathway “Psychosis in Children & Youth Health Pathway”** by **Karen Chung – Regional Health Pathway Editor**

**RSVP:** Email Di Evans at [MHGPVisits@adhb.govt.nz](mailto:MHGPVisits@adhb.govt.nz)

### OVERCOMING BARRIERS TO ASIAN HEALTH

**Date:** Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> May 2020

**Time:** 08:00 – 16:35

**Venue:** Highbrook Conference Centre, Highbrook Drive, East Tamaki, Auckland 2013

**Speakers:** **Dr Renee Liang** and **Professor Shanthi Ameratunga**, presenting *The Case of the Invisible Asian*

**RSVP online:** [acma.org.nz/acmaconf2020](http://acma.org.nz/acmaconf2020)

### GP REQUIRED

Full time GP is required at Symonds Street Medical Centre. Please contact [sanaz@ssmc.co.nz](mailto:sanaz@ssmc.co.nz) OR Phone: 3099577 for further information of this role.



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