

COVID-19 update to primary care providers

1) Fort Richard nasal swabs - change in transport medium

Please be advised that there will be a change in the colour of the transport medium for Fort Richard nasal swabs.

There is no need for concern if you receive swabs with either a clear or a pink/orange transport medium. There are no changes to procedure.

The box label will indicate:

- Viral Transport Medium (2.5ml) + Nasopharyngeal Flocked Swab (this will be a pink/orange fluid)
- Viral Transport Fluid (2.5ml) + Nasopharyngeal Flocked Swab (this will be a clear fluid).

[Fort Richards nasal swab transport medium colour change 20April20.pdf](#) [109.6 KB]

See the attached photos of both models.



2) Updated advice for Health Professional Home Visiting - see document attached.

[Interim Advice for Health Professional v13 2020Apr14 update4.pdf](#) [698.1 KB]

3) Changes to the eNotification Form

In order to support timely and appropriate COVID-19 contact-tracing, the eNotification Form has been updated and will be available later this week.

With the exception of CBACs, completion and submission of an eNotification Form will trigger a POAC COVID-19 activity reimbursement.

Reconfirmation of these rates of reimbursement will be notified later this week.

Green Prescription referrals during COVID-19

Green Prescription (GRx) providers are still taking GP referrals throughout the various alert levels of the national COVID-19 response – offering general wellness support, nutrition and physical activity advice to patients by phone and online. This will add another layer of assistance at this critical time. You can refer your patients via Care Connect eReferrals.

Smoking cessation during COVID-19

Ready Steady Quit (RSQ) will continue to provide smoking cessation programmes during the various alert levels of the national COVID-19 response by phone, video link and through drop-offs of nicotine replacement therapies (patches, gum and lozenges).

You can refer your patients via Care Connect eReferrals or contact us directly on 0800 500 601. Self-referral information is available at <https://readysteadyquit.org.nz/>

Ready Steady Quit continues smoking cessation services

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You can refer your patients via Care Connect eReferrals or contact us directly on 0800 500 601. Self-referral information is available at <https://readysteadyquit.org.nz/>

Plan ahead when ordering flu vaccine

The Ministry of Health has tasked DHBs with approving all orders for influenza vaccine.

This process, and the high demand for vaccine, is creating delays in the distribution process. Orders can take three to five business days from the time of ordering to delivery.

It is recommended that immunisation providers place their orders for 'flu vaccine a week before anticipated demand such as planned 'flu clinics' to ensure that vaccine supply is available at their clinic.

As Monday, 27 April is a public holiday and vaccines are not routinely dispatched on Fridays, this may cause further delays. Providers are, therefore, encouraged to place orders for 'flu vaccine early this week.

A reminder that the priority access period for eligible patients and healthcare workers now continues until 27 April, 2020. Please defer other people until after Anzac weekend.

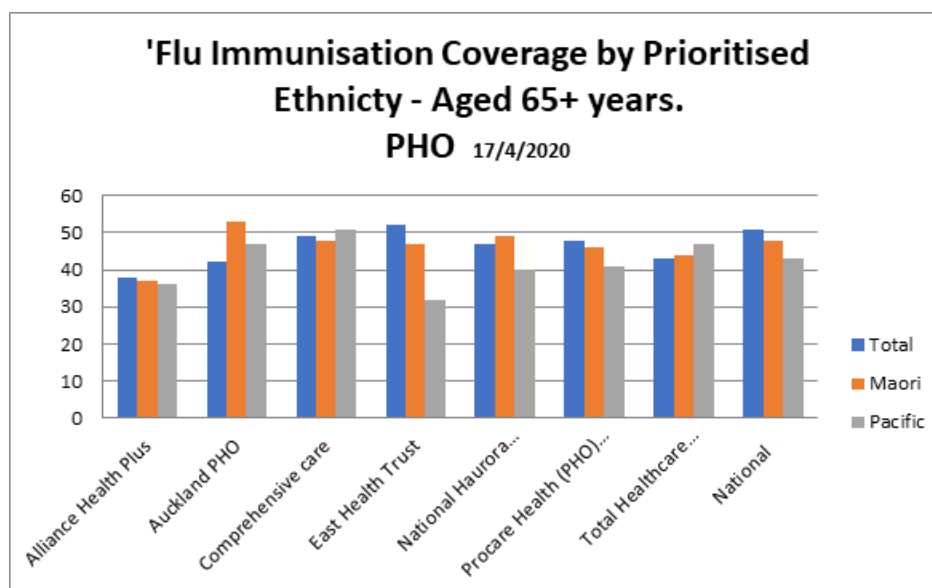
Influenza Update

It is important that all eligible patients are contacted to have the influenza vaccine before the general public can access this on 27th April. These include those over 65 years, pregnant women, those under 65 years with chronic conditions and children 0-4 years who have been hospitalised with a respiratory condition.

The graph below shows that Auckland PHO is doing well with those people over the age of 65 years with Maori and Pacific patients as well. Well done to you all who have been working hard to get this age group in.

There is a limited amount of Afluria Quad Junior available please make sure that you keep stock for those children who are eligible to receive this.

All influenza reports are now available through Mohio. If you require assistance navigating these reports please contact Louise Goodall Child Health Coordinator louise@aucklandpho.co.nz or call 021 246 6510.



COVID 19 Document Library on Auckland PHO Website

A reminder to refer to the Auckland PHO website for any information that has been emailed to practices since late March. In addition, Webinars are filed there in case you are in need of more screen time!