

**COVID-19 INFORMATION**  
**LABTEST PRE-DEPARTURE COVID-19 TESTING**  
**FOR TRAVEL TO CHINA**

Please [follow this link](#) to view the latest Labtests laboratory update. This contains:

- Pre-departure COVID-19 testing for travel to China

The repeat COVID IgM form can be obtained through this [link](#).

**MESSAGES FROM THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF HEALTH**  
**DR ASHLEY BLOOMFIELD**

See attachment (1).

**ARMS ACT 1983 FOR HEALTH PRACTITIONERS REPORTING**  
**UNDER THE ARMS ACT**

Please see the attached Information for Health Practitioners for your reference (attachment 2).

Police would be grateful if you could please read the information and note the updated Act which will come into force on 24 December 2020.

The Police expect this information to evolve and mature over time and they look forward to continuing to work with the Health Providers to reduce the risk of harm from firearms in our communities.

**AUCKLAND PHO PRACTICE AWARDS AND REWARDS**

A reminder that during the next two weeks (7 – 18 December) a few of the Auckland PHO team will deliver Awards and Rewards for Health Target achievements personally, to acknowledge your efforts over the year along with a koha for the team to enjoy an end of year celebration.

Let's hope 2021 will be a better year with many opportunities to gather and celebrate the exceptional care our Primary Care teams provide for the communities and people we serve.

**PRIMARY HEALTH CARE MECA**

We have been informed by General Practice New Zealand (GPNZ) that there has been progress with the Primary Health Care MECA negotiations and the Crown is working on possible funding support **only** for employers who are party to the PHC MECA, to enable settlement. Due to confidentiality around the negotiating / bargaining discussions NZMA, the DHBs and the Ministry are unable to formally provide any further details.

The NZMA has advised that practices who are not currently party to the PHC MECA can still sign up via the NZMA in order to be party to any settlement and possible funding support from the government. To do this practices should contact Robyn Fell directly on [robyn@nzma.org.nz](mailto:robyn@nzma.org.nz)

**PEER GROUP MEETINGS**

**DRAGON GROUP**

Date/Time: Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020/ 7pm - 9pm

**VIKAS GROUP**

Date/Time: Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020 / 7pm - 9pm

Venue: Auckland PHO, Level 4, 210 Khyber Pass Road, Grafton

RSVP: [priscilla@aucklandpho.co.nz](mailto:priscilla@aucklandpho.co.nz)

**LABTESTS ISSUE 32 'THE SCOPE' NOVEMBER 2020**

Please follow [this link](#) to view the latest publication of The Scope

Topics:

- General Managers Greetings
- Biochemistry Analyser Change-over from Siemens to Roche
- Axe the Fax

**THE GOODFELLOW SYMPOSIUM 2021**  
**LIVE ONLINE EVENT**

The Goodfellow Unit's annual two-day symposium, held in partnership with the College, is set to go ahead next March. However, in response to COVID-19 it will be held virtually. The programme will still be packed with a variety of rich and varied presentations, including those from College President Dr Sam Murton and Medical Director Dr Bryan Betty.

**Date:** 27 - 28 March 2021

Early bird registration is open. For more information regarding the programme and registration, please visit <https://www.goodfellowunit.org/symposium/programme>

**SUSPECTED SUICIDE OF AUCKLAND TEEN**

A 14 year-old female Mt Albert Grammar School student died from suspected suicide on Sunday 29 November.

The fast dissemination of this kind of news via social media adds to the risk of contagion and further suicide attempts by vulnerable young people.

Please keep this in mind during your daily dealings with patients of this demographic and follow normal referral processes to mental health services where appropriate.

For non-acute situations consider using the Need to talk – free call or text 1737.

See: HealthPathways - [Suicide Prevention in Youth](#) and [Youth Mental Health Counselling and Therapy](#)