

## 1. Maintaining the COVID-19 swabbing momentum

As new and more transmissible COVID-19 variants are detected at the NZ border, and the summer holiday period continues, there is a heightened risk that any situation which results in a community case could develop into a cluster or – in a worst-case scenario – a more widespread outbreak.

To help us prevent and respond quickly to any case of community transmission:

- Continue to swab **ALL** patients with symptoms of COVID-19 irrespective of age, where they live, or other risk criteria; along with others as per the MoH testing guidelines i.e. asymptomatic patients meeting the HIS criteria. <https://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/pages/guidance-for-primary-secondary-care-15dec2020.pdf>
- Triage every patient before they visit the practice – an updated COVID-19 Triage script will be sent to Auckland PHO practices
- Maintain red and green streaming.

## 2. Ongoing Practice Preparedness - to respond to all levels and phases of COVID-19

Auckland PHO has developed a plan to support and assist practices to ensure everyone is ready and prepared if a COVID-19 case appears in the community.

Each month, we would like you to concentrate on a specific area in the [Pandemic Check List](#). Auckland PHO staff will be available to provide assistance within each area.

In January, for example, the areas to review and update are:

- Patient information on the answer phone and website
- Door signs
- QR code
- Waiting room – 2 metre spacing
- Masks and hand sanitizer available
- Magazines and toys removed
- COVID-19 information displayed
- Front desk adhering to the triage script
- Patients with respiratory symptoms asked to wait in specified areas.

## 3. Reinstatement of pre-COVID-19 Special Authority Criteria

PHARMAC amended or removed funding criteria for many medicines in order to improve access to these treatments in anticipation of, and/or in response to, COVID-19. From 1 February 2021 pre-COVID-19 Special Authority criteria will be reinstated. Any active Special Authority approvals will continue in force, so people with current approvals will only be affected if and when a Special Authority renewal application is required.

[Find out more](#)

## 4. The RNZCGP are hosting a COVID-19 vaccine webinar

With the vaccination of New Zealanders against COVID-19 set to begin in the coming months, the College is keen to answer your questions about the vaccine/s and the role GPs will play. College President Dr Sam Murton and College Medical Director Dr Bryan Betty will be joined by Dr Nikki Turner, GP and Director of The Immunisation Advisory Centre, on Wednesday 3 February for a webinar covering these issues.

The webinar will be run as a question and answer session, but to ensure they are answering the questions you'd most like responses to, please kindly complete the College [short three-question survey](#) about the topics you want the College to cover. The webinar is open to members and Fellows of The Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners. The webinar will be recorded and available on your dashboard the next day.

**Disclaimer:** you only need to complete the survey once, even if you receive the link again via another channel.

[Register now](#)

## 5. IMAC website COVID-19 Vaccines

IMAC has set up a new page on the IMAC website <https://www.immune.org.nz/covid-19-vaccines> which includes a quick FAQ – a 'living document' so suggested edits etc are happily received! It sits under the Vaccines menu item at the bottom of the list.

## 6. COVID-19 vaccinator information

To administer any COVID-19 vaccine, all qualified/authorised and provisional vaccinators will need to produce evidence that they have completed the online COVID-19 specific education course. **This is not the PVFC detailed below.**

In early 2021, IMAC will announce via their website (<https://www.immune.org.nz/covid-19-vaccinator-information>) and newsletter when that course will be available. If you are a vaccinator and do not currently subscribe to their email list, please do so by clicking this [link](#). For the first Pfizer vaccine, only a small number of vaccinators will be administering this vaccine and will be required to complete the training relevant to this vaccine. [Click here for COVID-19 FAQs](#). **Please do not email IMAC asking for a release date for the COVID-19 specific education course.**

Provisional Vaccinator Foundation Course (PVFC):

**An Influenza, MMR and Pandemic Vaccinator Foundation Course** has been developed for the administration of influenza and MMR. Those who complete the PVFC will also be eligible to undertake the COVID-19 specific education course when it is available. The PVFC is a FREE course, please email [imacadmin@imac.auckland.ac.nz](mailto:imacadmin@imac.auckland.ac.nz) for registration instructions. Please specify type of health professional in email. These instructions will be sent out from IMAC progressively within two weeks of receiving registration applications (please do not email more than once). **Current authorised or pharmacist vaccinators do not need to complete the PVFC.**

This course is available to any Health Care Professional (HCP) who has a current Annual Practising Certificate (APC) and appropriate health science students e.g. Well Child Tamariki Ora (WCTO) nurses, Māori and Pacific health providers, school registered nurses, pharmacists not already vaccinating, enrolled nurses, aged residential care nurses, health professionals with interim APC's, third year student nurses and fourth year onwards student doctors.

## 7. Onelink process for COVID-19 PPE ordering

- The PPE ordering process is now fully operational via Onelink however, some practices are yet to set up an account and order PPE via the online ordering portal.
- If you have not already set up your account with Onelink, please email [mohppe@onelink.co.nz](mailto:mohppe@onelink.co.nz) to obtain a login **urgently**.
- The process has been simplified and should only take a few minutes to complete. If you are unable to order or having difficulty accessing PPE please contact [Suzie@aucklandpho.co.nz](mailto:Suzie@aucklandpho.co.nz)

## 8. Virtual Consultation Platform – Doxy.me

During the first COVID-19 lockdown several practices across Auckland scrambled to enable a web-based consultation platform in order to provide virtual consultations for patients. The platform most widely installed across primary care is **Doxy.me** which you may already be very familiar with as many of the Auckland PHO practices have already registered user accounts and installed the browser-based application.

As part of the Covid-19 surge planning we are attaching an in-depth user guide for providers on how to enable the 'free' Doxy.me consultation platform to maintain continuous and aligned records for virtual patient consultations.

Should you require any further guidance or assistance with this platform email contact [wayde@aucklandpho.co.nz](mailto:wayde@aucklandpho.co.nz) or: 021 599 209



Doxy.me Set up guide.pdf