

COVID-19 FAST FACTS 1 MARCH 2021



AUCKLAND PHO ZOOM COVID-19 UPDATE 5.15PM TONIGHT

Auckland PHO COVID-19 Update via Zoom

When: Monday 1st March 2021 at 5.15pm

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4040266333?pwd=OHJWSmxyNnpnbThuRzFydWpMMllYQT09>

Meeting ID: 404 026 6333 Password: 210

Primary Care Alert Response Framework

Primary Care Response Framework – Level Yellow

MEDINZ 28/02/2021 5.55 PM

NRHCC in conjunction with Primary Care leaders is moving Primary Care in metro Auckland to **Level Yellow with immediate effect**. Please familiarise yourself with the [COVID-19 Primary Care Response Framework](#)

This response level is specific to Primary Care in metro Auckland, and may be different from the current hospital alert/response level and the national or regional Alert Level, which have different triggers and features.

Hospital Services:

- All hospitals remain open for acute and urgent care and remain a safe place for people to access hospital-level care. Where possible, planned care will continue but some planned care will be deferred to enable the release of staff to support the COVID-19 response, including vaccination.
- Outpatients will be completed virtually/remote consultations where clinically appropriate.
- Hospitals will have in place some visitor restrictions to reduce the number of people on-site and support physical distancing where possible.

Labtests: No change

Private radiology: No change

COVID-19 VACCINE

Practice Staff Information for COVID-19 Vaccination Roll Out

Today, Practice Owners and Practice Managers are being sent an email requesting practice staff information in readiness for the next COVID-19 vaccination roll out. This includes general practice teams. Those NOT regarded as a general practice team member are, cleaners and allied health providers who visit the practice, such as podiatrists, psychologists, midwives and specialists.

We have been tasked by the DHB to obtain your practice staff individual information urgently.



A designated person from the practice is asked to complete the spreadsheet and return to priscilla@aucklandpho.co.nz **no later than 1pm tomorrow, Tuesday 2nd March 2021.**

Please note we require each individual staff member's personal mobile number and email address, NOT the practice landline or the practice generic email.

The information required also contains a column where an individual staff member can indicate their intention to receive or decline the vaccine at this stage. This is intended for planning purposes only and in the event, there is a change of mind, the initial decline will not prevent a future COVID-19 vaccination. If you do not have excel, the information can be handwritten and faxed to Auckland PHO 379 4022. Auckland PHO staff members, Sneha or Shanaz will contact you today and/or tomorrow to answer any questions you may have.

Prioritisation for short notice COVID-19 vaccination

In the spreadsheet is a column titled "available for short notice call up". This is to indicate the staff member's availability for vaccination at short notice, if there is spare vaccine available. Please indicate YES if the staff member is available and willing to be on a short notice call list.

Please do not present at vaccination sites as this is causing significant delays in vaccinating border staff. Anyone who is not a border worker who presents at a site without a booking will not be vaccinated.

Medinz

Appropriate masking and N95/P2 use and supply

MEDINZ 28/02/2021 5.55 PM

The MoH is making N95/P2 respirators available to general practice and urgent care clinics **for swabbing** within the Auckland region only, for 'those who feel they need them'. There is an **exemption on fit testing for this use for one week** only while arrangements for testing are sorted. Fit checking (or "user seal checking") each time the respirator is donned is important. Click [here](#) for instructions. Note if using N95/P2s, goggles will be needed for eye protection as face shields cannot be worn effectively over an N95/P2.

This guidance provides permission to wear an N95/P2, it is not a requirement. The MoH has stated 'those that are undertaking swabbing can still be confident they are protected if they continue to use a visor and a Type IIR/Level 2 disposable procedure mask'. It is important to remember that current PPE strategies have been very effective in protecting our primary care workforce throughout the pandemic thus far.

Environment is also important, and where possible swabbing should take place outdoors or in a well-ventilated room. Opening windows is helpful if there is no formal ventilation.

Further clarity is being provided by MoH this week regarding use of N95/P2s in primary care; the PPE section of the PC Response Framework will be updated accordingly once this information is available.



Push orders have been sent to some clinics this afternoon. All other practices registered with Onelink as swabbing practices will be sent N95/P2s in the next 1-2 days. Clinics do not need to order N95/P2s to receive the initial order. Further clarification on ordering will be provided. Goggles will be sent with the N95/P2s.

SURV codes

Where appropriate, put the appropriate [SURV code](#) on the request form and the e-Notification.

Testing capacity

Up-to-date information on CTC opening hours is at www.arphs.health.nz/covid19test

Patient information

To ensure patients are always given correct information, (including testing and isolation instructions) please refer to HealthPathways for up-to-date versions of the [Patient Information](#) sheets.

Locations of Interest

Click here for: [identified locations of interest](#) at the indicated times.

Community Testing Centres

Additional CTCs have been set up to support testing demand in East and South Auckland. Locations for community testing centres, including pop-up CTCs, are available at www.arphs.health.nz/covid19test and www.healthpoint.co.nz/covid-19/.

- People who live with someone who shopped at Kmart Botany or Dark Vapes East Tāmaki at the same time as a person with COVID-19.
- People who live with a Papatoetoe High School student or staff member.

[Updated information on contact tracing, types of contacts and when to isolate](#) is available on the Ministry of Health website.

Result management and e-notification reminders

A number of people tested within the current surge have been identified as having a negative COVID-19 test result without a corresponding centralised negative result communication.

Early data suggests that invalid phone numbers and email addresses being entered into the E-notification are significant contributing factors. A centralised negative result communication is unable to be sent without a **valid mobile phone number or email address**.

If this occurs, a message is sent to the referrer to notify them that the result has not been communicated with the patient. This message will appear in red italics in the referrer's inbox. A reminder that the referrer is then responsible for contacting the patient as part of their usual results management and reconciliation process.



COVID-19 Message from the Director-General of Health – Dr Ashley Bloomfield 1 March 2021

Information from Dr Ashley Bloomfield [click here](#)

Strategies to identify and deliver care for Vulnerable Patients and Undertake Screening via National Screening Programmes during Covid-19 National Emergency Alert Level 3 – updated paper from August 2020

The paper produced by Auckland PHO in August 2020 to help practices identify and deliver care for vulnerable patients and undertake screening during Level 3 has been updated. See **attachment (1)**.