

## 7 JULY COVID-19 KEY HEALTH MESSAGES

Please see attachment (1) for the latest approved key COVID-19 messages:

- QFT travel updates
- Locations of interest in Australia
- Time-sensitive applications for MIQ allocation for health professionals-blanket endorsement for Critical Health Workers
- Approval for widening the net of people who can undertake vaccinator workforce training has been granted (incl. kaiawhina, non-NZ registered overseas trained health professional and retired practitioners).
- Medsafes provisional approval of the Janssen vaccine for those aged over 18yr in NZ

## IMPORTANCE OF TESTING SYMPTOMATIC PEOPLE – UPDATED COVID-19 TESTING GUIDANCE

MEDINZ 13/07/2021 10:54:00 AM

Updated Ministry of Health (MoH) COVID-19 Testing Guidance for 8 July to 18 August 2021 is now available [here](#).

### Key messages include:

- Continue to test everyone with typical COVID-19 symptoms regardless of their vaccination status.
- With the emergence of the highly infectious Delta variant of the virus, the default position should be to test anyone who is symptomatic including children and the elderly. While the decision may be made not to test in some circumstances, this should very much be the exception rather than the rule.
- The NRHCC is following up with MoH to gain further clarity on testing in children.
- Consider testing people presenting with atypical symptoms (e.g. fever, diarrhoea, headache, myalgia, nausea, vomiting or confusion/irritability) if they meet the Higher Index of Suspicion (HIS) criteria, are a contact of a COVID-19 case, are elderly, or children.

**Please remember to submit eNotifications promptly after testing and/or assessing patients for COVID-19.**

Please send feedback to [Hsin-lun.partridge@waitematadhb.govt.nz](mailto:Hsin-lun.partridge@waitematadhb.govt.nz)

## UPDATED COVID-19 TRIAGE SUGGESTED SCRIPT

MEDINZ 13/07/2021 9:51:13 AM

With the emergence of the highly infectious Delta variant of COVID-19, it is important to continue the triaging and streaming of patients. An updated COVID-19 triage script is now available [here](#) on the [COVID-19 Assessment and Management HealthPathway](#).

Please review your practice's existing triage script in light of the revisions and/or consider using the suggested script. You may also wish to consider using these questions on your signage, website and other communications.

Please send feedback to [Hsin-lun.partridge@waitematadhb.govt.nz](mailto:Hsin-lun.partridge@waitematadhb.govt.nz)

## A message from RNZCGP regarding clarity about working with respiratory conditions

RNZCGP took this question recently through their [COVID-19 form](#) and they thought the answer was worth a wider circulation.

**Question:** “Now that we are seeing a huge upswing in respiratory illnesses, our workplace is debating the return to work of clinical staff with respiratory illnesses and a negative swab. Some of us believe that the messaging is very clear that you should remain at home until you are symptom free. Others believe that with two vaccinations and a negative swab, then it is okay to return to the workplace while still symptomatic. A colleague phoned the Ministry of Health and was advised that if doctors have had two vaccines and have minor cold and flu symptoms, then they can go to work. They also said that this is the same with patients who have had two vaccines. This seems to contradict the ‘stay at home if unwell’ message. Please could you clarify and get a directive for us?”

When RNZCGP approached the Ministry they responded with the following:

**Answer:** “Irrespective of vaccine status and a negative test, it would not be considered good practice for a clinician to see patients face to face if they were unwell. The position on the Ministry’s website remains that businesses and services should make it clear that people who are unwell, and especially those with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 should stay home and not enter the workplace. Our Ministry contacts will ensure the response teams in our directorate and the contact centre are reminded of this.”

## COVID-19 VACCINATION WEBINAR

### Recording of the Northern Region Health Coordination Centre’s (NRHCC) primary care webinar – 6 July

MEDINZ 13/07/2021 7:57:53 AM

There was a great turnout for NRHCC’s monthly webinar about the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccination programme, held on Tuesday 6 July.

If you were unable to attend the webinar, the recording is now available on the Auckland Region’s HealthPathways. Here’s the location: [COVID-19 Vaccination Information](#) > Local guidance > Health professionals resources > [COVID-19 Vaccination Rollout in Auckland: Update for primary care - 6 July 2021](#) (webinar recording).

The webinar includes:

- Dr Joe Bourne, the Primary Care Lead for the COVID-19 Vaccine and Immunisations Programme at the Ministry of Health, talking about the rollout of the vaccination programme to primary care across NZ.
- The Northern Region Health Coordination Centre’s programme team providing details of what’s happening in the metro Auckland region, followed by questions and answers.
- Professor Peter McIntyre, a member of the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts for immunisation for the World Health Organisation, answering COVID-19 related clinical questions.

The webinar was hosted by the Goodfellow Unit and was aimed at GPs and general practice staff, practice nurses and staff, primary care providers, PHOs, urgent care and pharmacies.

The next NRHCC primary care webinar will be held in early August. The NRHCC will let you know when registration opens.

Please send feedback to [Leanne.Kirton@waitematadhb.govt.nz](mailto:Leanne.Kirton@waitematadhb.govt.nz)

## COVID-19 VACCINATION, AUCKLAND REGIONAL HEALTHPATHWAYS

### Auckland Regional HealthPathways: NEW COVID-19 HealthPathway

MEDINZ 9/07/2021 1:02:43 PM

#### [COVID-19 Vaccination Preparation and Aftercare](#)

A new HealthPathway has recently gone live: [COVID-19 Vaccination Preparation and Aftercare](#). The Pathway includes information on preparing your practice, practice staff and patients for administering and receiving the COVID-19 vaccine. It also has tips to support patients who have difficulties with vaccination, and the management of adverse events. See also [COVID-19 Vaccination Information](#).

Please send feedback to [indigo.matisi@middlemore.co.nz](mailto:indigo.matisi@middlemore.co.nz)

### Auckland Regional HealthPathways: Recent pathway updates

#### [COVID-19 Vaccination Information](#)

This pathway has been updated to include information about obtaining proof of COVID-19 vaccination for travel. See also [COVID-19 Vaccination Preparation and Aftercare](#) for information on COVID-19 vaccination catch-ups for people who have received a first dose overseas.

#### [COVID-19 Impact on Clinical Care](#)

A Clinical Editor's note (at the top of the pathway), has been added to [COVID-19 Impact on Clinical Care](#) and other relevant pathways to highlight the issue of the rare condition Vaccine-induced Thrombosis with Thrombocytopenia (VITT) which may occur after some COVID-19 vaccine types used overseas, and which may be encountered in arriving travellers. Heparin and Enoxaparin are contraindicated in VITT.

## LABTESTS

### Collection Centre changes and specimen collection container update

MEDINZ on 12/07/2021 1:18:18 PM

Please see the attached update with important information about:

- New Lynn collection centre - moving to new, larger site 19th July
- Titirangi collection centre - closing permanently from 16th July
- Botany collection centre - Closed 23rd July, reopening at new site on 24th July.
- Urine, faeces and COVID specimen containers updates

[210701 Lab Update - CC changes.pdf](#) [861.2 KB]

Please send feedback to [Cheryle.dyson@labtests.co.nz](mailto:Cheryle.dyson@labtests.co.nz)