

**Important information for all GP teams, Community Pharmacists, Community Nursing and Aged Care Facilities – Please share this with everyone in your team**

**Current Status**

- Cases continue to increase.
- Vaccine is in limited supply. Our major concern is that ProPharma suggest additional doses are unable to arrive after today's shipment before next Wednesday. We are working with Community & Public Health and the Ministry to rectify this.
- We are expecting this exceptional vaccination programme to last for at least six weeks.
- We recognise there have been multiple communications to general practice giving somewhat differing advice. CDHB, Community & Public Health, Immunisation Coordinators, PHOs and Canterbury Primary Response Group are working together and have gathered the most up-to-date information to produce this update.
- Continue to do PCR testing on potential cases at present but there will be a point at which we will be relying on clinical diagnosis and will no longer be testing each case – we will advise further.

**Recommendations**

- We cannot vaccinate the entire community immediately. Our priorities have been developed taking into account vaccine supply, workforce capacity, and relative risk. All immunisations given are beneficial.
- Two doses of MMR confer good protection. If there is uncertainty whether two doses have been given, it is safe to give an additional dose.
- Current priorities for immunisation:
  1. People who are not up-to-date according to the schedule for their age group
    - Children and young adults (age range 5 years to 28 years) who are either not immunised or who have only received one MMR dose to date.
    - Children 12 months to 5 years who have never received any doses of MMR.
  2. The four-year-old MMR can be brought forward to no sooner than four weeks after the previous MMR.
  3. Adults aged 29 to 50 (this cohort only received one dose of measles vaccine).
- People born before 1969 are considered to be low risk and do not require vaccination.
- Patients should not be referred to the 24 Hour Surgery for vaccinations, although if unwell they will be seen.

We appreciate general practice efforts to date and acknowledge the challenges you're facing with patients presenting and contacting the practice, especially given limited vaccine supply.

Kind regards,

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Canterbury Primary Response Group

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Medical Officers of Health