

Thursday 9 April 1700 hours

Important information for all Community Pharmacists – Please share this with everyone in your team

Guidance for Community Pharmacies on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Cleaning

CPRG has developed specific interim guidance for community pharmacies on Infection Prevention and Control including information on PPE and cleaning. The purpose is to provide a safe working environment for both staff and customers during the COVID-19 pandemic and to prevent its spread. These guidelines are on the [CPRG website](#).

This document aligns with the Pharmacy Sector Services document [Pharmacy Practice during the COVID-19 Pandemic 7 April 2020](#) and with the [MoH Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\) used by Community Pharmacy for prevention of COVID-19, 8 April 2020](#).

A pharmacy specific COVID door poster to support the above guidelines can be found [here](#).

PPE Supply and Order

At present, each week pharmacies will be sent a pack of 50 masks and, depending on supply, hand sanitiser from the Primary Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) through the pharmacy wholesaler order (CDC or Propharma). If you require further masks or hand sanitiser please request on the [CPRG order form](#).

In the event of a potentially infectious customer contaminating your consultation room it is important that you clean and disinfect the room post consultation. To ensure your staff are kept safe and follow the guidelines for cleaning and disinfecting, CPRG will be looking to source and send to all pharmacies a PPE kit and instruction sheet for cleaning contaminated areas only. In the meantime if full PPE is urgently required or, if it is essential that you deliver a pharmacy service to a person with confirmed, probable or suspected COVID-19, please contact the EOC to access an emergency PPE kit: eoc@cprg.org.nz.

Guidance on healthcare worker exposure at work and in the community

A useful flowchart with advice and an exposed staff member self-monitoring diary is now available on the [CPRG website](#).

Pharmacies varying opening hours

Pharmacies may need to vary their opening hours to manage the workload on their available staff. In this event, make service users aware of the varied opening hours, when the pharmacy is not open, and where else they can go for an urgent pharmacy service need.

If the varied hours significantly reduce local access to pharmacy services, please inform the Primary EOC on eoc@cprg.org.nz as soon as possible. The EOC is working to maintain local access to health care for our community, and where this is threatened may offer additional support to providers. The EOC will also inform the CDHB.

Influenza immunisations – date for priority groups extended

The Ministry of Health is asking all providers of influenza immunisations to:

- Continue prioritising those people eligible for a funded immunisation, healthcare and other frontline essential workers, and
- Defer immunisation for others until after 27th April.

The CDHB is working with the supply chain to minimise the risk of flu vaccine shortages for providers.

Community HealthPathways

The COVID-19 pages on [Community HealthPathways](#) are being regularly updated with the latest information. We encourage you to check for updates daily.

Kind regards,

Robyn Harris, Pharmacy Advisor
Canterbury Primary Response Group