

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2020 1400 hours**

**Important information for all General Practices, Community Pharmacies, Community Nursing and Aged Care Facilities – Please share this with everyone in your team as appropriate**

## **Resurgence Planning**

The recent community outbreak in Auckland and the impact on primary care providers highlights the need for robust business continuity planning for general practice and pharmacy.

### **The Primary Care Alert Response Framework**

- This [pathway](#) provides an outline for general practice at different alert levels. It is worth reviewing this pathway to familiarise yourself with the recommendations for different alert levels.
- Feel free to adapt the Auckland PHO sample checklist, [available here](#).
- It is impossible to provide a 'one-size-fits-all' solution, so we strongly recommend spending some time considering how your business is prepared for a possible resurgence.

### **Local Emergency Groups (LEGs)**

- We have updated the Local Emergency Group (LEG) information and will email this out to you in the next week with a letter outlining areas to consider in your planning. We recommend connecting with other practices and pharmacies in your sector to share ideas and consider any gaps in your planning. Consider how you might be able to support each other and please feedback where PHOs and CPRG can provide support.

## **Primary Care Quick Guide**

Key points from the latest [Quick Guide](#) for primary care and mask policy recommended in healthcare settings developed by the Technical Advisory Group (TAG).

### **Masks and PPE**

- Provide a surgical mask to all patients who present with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 to wear whilst waiting and during assessment.
- If staff cannot maintain 1m physical distancing, or are undertaking a physical exam/procedure, wear a surgical mask as part of droplet precautions.
- Full PPE (gown/apron, surgical mask, eye protection and gloves) is required when taking a swab.
- Full PPE should be used when assessing symptomatic HIS patients.
- Gloves, when used, should be changed between patients with hand hygiene performed in between.
- Reception staff do not need to wear a face mask unless they are unable to maintain 2m physical distance from the public.
- Re-usable fabric face coverings are acceptable in non-clinical areas and green stream. Medical grade masks should be used in red stream.
- Encourage 2m physical distancing for the public in reception and waiting areas. Where this is not possible, masks can be provided and patients should be encouraged to bring their own face coverings.
- Work is taking place in volunteer communities to provide access to re-useable fabric face coverings. [This page on HealthInfo](#) provides information about how and when to use facemasks.

### **Self-isolation Advice**

- At any alert level, anyone who meets the clinical and HIS criteria should be tested and self-isolate while awaiting test results and be notified to the Medical Officer of Health. At Alert levels 1 and 2, these are the only people who need to self-isolate while awaiting test results.
- Those who meet the HIS criteria who are asymptomatic do not need to self-isolate while waiting for test results, unless they are advised otherwise. For example, if they are a close contact of a confirmed case.



- Those patients with negative results but who meet HIS criteria must remain at home while they have symptoms. If there is a high degree of suspicion that they may have COVID-19 (e.g. very close contact with a case), the test may be repeated – discuss with the Medical Officer of Health.
  - Provided they are not close contacts of a confirmed or probable case, or have had recent overseas travel where pre-existing isolation requirements continue to apply, they can discuss when they are fit to return to work with their General Practitioner or primary care provider.
  - The [HealthInfo self-isolation information](#) has been updated to reflect these changes. [This page on FAQs for asymptomatic testing](#) has also been developed.

Kind regards,

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P.S. **Testing centres** are open at the following locations – no referrals required:

- Whānau Ora CBAC – 250 Pages Road, 9am-4pm, 7 days a week until further notice
- 174 Orchard Road CBAC – 9am-4pm, 7 days a week until further notice
- Ashburton Hospital CBAC – 28 Elizabeth Street, 10am-2pm, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

