

## Provider Network Update

March 4 2022

Aotearoa is at **Phase 3** in the COVID-19 Omicron response. The whole country remains at **Red** in the traffic light system.

This update covers:

- Vaccination Programme Update
- CSIQ Response team – heroes at work
- Disability Team Update – NZSL Information videos
- New social media tiles for sharing the testing message
- People self-isolating now allowed to exercise
- Reconnecting NZ: Changes for vaccinated travellers
- Ministry of Health Guidance Updates
- Recommended websites
- Funding for the Māori health Omicron outbreak response
- Astrazeneca booster interval changed to 3 months
- COVID-19 FAQs for pregnant people
- Hospital response level update
- Shout out to MIQ team
- New Advance Care Planning Campaign underway
- International Forum on quality and safety – call for abstracts
- Wellbeing

Any questions regarding this communication may be directed to [2DHBCommissioning@ccdhb.org.nz](mailto:2DHBCommissioning@ccdhb.org.nz)

### VACCINATION PROGRAMME UPDATE

We would like to acknowledge the challenges you have been facing right across the COVID-19 response. Despite the rapidly changing landscape as case numbers continue to rise, the challenge of technical issues, changes in processes and systems, and confused and at times angry public, you are working extremely hard and continue to achieve excellent results.

As of yesterday there were 11,056 active cases in 3DHB – 17 patients in Wellington Hospital and 5 in Hutt Hospital. Regional Public Health is continuing to support University resident halls experiencing outbreaks.

The Māori vaccination programme has hit another milestone reaching 70% Māori boosters for CCDHB, and Hutt Valley DHB very close behind. The 5-11 year old vaccination rate is also just about to reach 50% for Māori vaccination.

We are seeing some protest movement at the moment since the Parliament protest has broken up. Some groups are targeting the Wainuiomata clinic. However, through collaboration with the Police and Hutt Council Emergency team, alongside a tremendous community effort in Wainuiomata, it seems to be contained.

There is a lot of attention on availability of RATs and distribution. Our focus is on ensuring high needs populations have access to RATs. This week they were delivered to all kohanga reo in the region, and organisation of distribution through the Spokes is starting to take shape.

While there is a lot of people under pressure at the moment we need to send aroha towards the people working the testing centres. Throughout this last week we have seen huge queues of people and a level of aggression we haven't seen before. The teams working in those centres have displayed outstanding calm and fortitude in the face of some unfortunate levels of abuse. As a result a lot of work is going on now to change the methodology for RAT distribution to ensure we have safety for our workforce and the most efficient way to put RATs in the right hands.

All of our spokes across all localities are busy but are reporting that they're managing the flow at this stage, providing clinical care and manaaki support for those that need it. Our CSIQ team continues to provide support and provide guidance to all of those spokes as they build their learning curves and experience.

## CSIQ RESPONSE TEAM – HEROES AT WORK

There are many heroes at work in health. Two people in 2DHB who are distinguishing themselves right now are Alister Thorby and Tracey Albertsson working in the COVID-19 Response team. Alister and Tracey have worked non-stop providing support for those who have contracted COVID-19 in the region as well as those who are close contacts that require isolation.



Each day there has been a new scenario with all cases being less than straightforward. Their goal is to quickly build a trust relationship with those they are meeting and supporting with the aim of gaining compliance while staying in isolation.

It has at times been difficult work as they often have to work through complex problems of non-compliance, domestic violence, mental health,

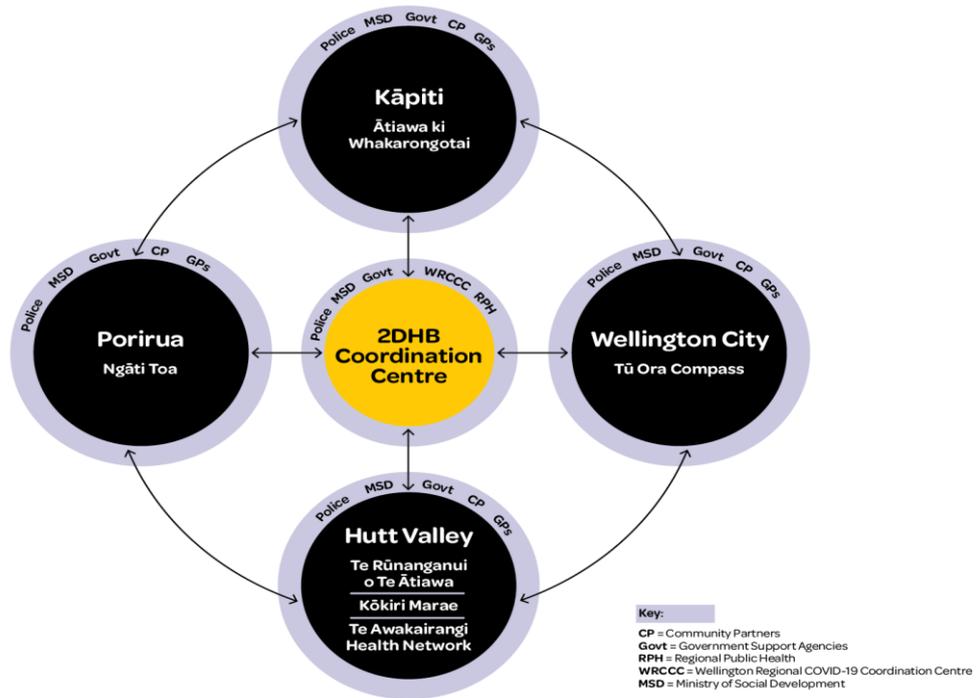
fear, confusion. They have many, many stories from the work so far, but often, once the clinical considerations have been ascertained, it can come down to something as simple as getting hot food to a family about to arrive home late at night to a house without food.

They have bought clothes, made connections with GPs and landlords, and helped in transporting people in order to create coherency from the word go in their COVID-19 journey.

Says Tracey: "Most importantly the people in isolation know they have friends on the outside. There have been many days where we are still at work into the early hours."

While they continue their work, as case numbers rise Tracey and Alister are mentoring and supporting the Spoke Lead organisations based on their learning curve of the past few months.

See diagram on following page:



## DISABILITY TEAM UPDATE – NZSL OMICRON INFORMATION VIDEOS

The Disability Strategy team has shared some excellent informative NZSL videos with information on:

- [Omicron Phase 3](#)
- [Omicron Phase 2](#)
- Getting prepared for COVID-19  
<https://vimeo.com/678987044?fbclid=IwAR01M8sUPLUo3iFr0rMNQDYiysdmEqS3qBrOG7iCzFwno8EFfZzxkJn6pS8>

## RPH SURVEY

Regional Public Health is working to ensure that they are ready to assist people who might need more support when they get COVID-19. To do this, they are making a list of residential facilities with residents who may be high risk, or need more assistance, including boarding houses and disability provider residences.

They are sending out:

- A survey, to collect information about these residential facilities (addresses, contact people, number of residents, type of residence)
- A booklet with information about managing COVID-19 in residential facilities

The survey is voluntary. If you fill it out for your residence, it allows Regional Public Health to keep this information on file. That way, if a positive COVID case is confirmed at that address, a flag will alert the team that it is a residence with occupants who may need more assistance.

If you would like a copy of this survey and booklet for your residence please email [Vanessa.creamer@huttvalleydhb.org.nz](mailto:Vanessa.creamer@huttvalleydhb.org.nz)

## NEW SOCIAL MEDIA TILES – TESTING MESSAGES

Omicron Phase 3 – Testing



The image shows a social media tile with a light purple background. At the top left is a circular icon of a hand holding a test stick. To its right, the text reads: "Tested positive? Stay home for 10 days". Below this, it says "No symptoms?" followed by a yellow checkmark icon and "Then you're good to go". At the bottom, it states "No more tests needed". The URL "covid19wellingtonregion.health.nz" is centered below the text. At the bottom of the tile are four logos: Hutt Valley DHB, Capital & Coast District Health Board, Wairarapa DHB, and a "Unite against COVID-19" logo.

Please use the **attached** series of tiles for your social media channels to give people strong, clear messages around testing and isolating.

Please also share these messages with your friends and whānau and through your social media channels.

- Our health teams are doing the best they can to administer COVID-19 tests and distribute rapid antigen tests but are experiencing an unacceptable level of abusive behaviour at community sites around the region.

- Please to be patient and kind – both to one another and to staff. The only way through this is by working together and supporting each other.

- People should only visit sites to collect tests if they have symptoms or live with someone who has COVID-19.

## PEOPLE SELF-ISOLATING NOW ALLOWED TO EXERCISE

Also to flag that under the new Public Health order that came into force last Thursday at midnight, people who are self-isolating are allowed to exercise in their neighbourhoods and aren't required to wear a mask while exercising.

See: COVID-19 Public Health Response (Self-isolation Requirements and Permitted Work) Order 2022 (SL 2022/46) Subpart 2—Permitted reasons to leave place of self-isolation – New Zealand Legislation

<https://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2022/0046/latest/LMS647739.html>

## RECONNECTING NZ: CHANGES FOR VACCINATED TRAVELLERS

This week New Zealand began to open its international border to New Zealand citizens and residents from Australia as part of a first step in Reconnecting NZ to the world. Initially vaccinated arrivals were required to self-isolate for 7 days and take two rapid antigen tests (RATs) during this time. From today, fully vaccinated travellers will no longer need to self-isolate on arrival but are still required to test on day 0/1 and day 5/6 and report these results.

Step 2 of Reconnecting NZ has also been brought forward and as of 11.59pm 4 March, vaccinated New Zealand citizens and residents from anywhere in the world can enter New Zealand without needing to enter MIQ or self-isolate. Travellers will continue to need to have a pre departure test and complete testing requirements on arrival as above.

## MINISTRY OF HEALTH GUIDANCE UPDATES

A number of pages on the Ministry of Health website have been updated today:

- [Rapid antigen testing – Ministry of Health](#)
- [Testing guidance for GPs | Ministry of Health NZ](#)
- [Advice for people with COVID-19 – Ministry of Health](#)

- [Guide for PPE selection to protect primary and community health and disability care workers – Omicron update – Ministry of Health](#)
- [COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control - Interim Guidance for DHB Acute Care Hospitals – Omicron update](#)
- [COVID-19 vaccines](#)

## RECOMMENDED WEBSITES

Our [Protect Greater Wellington website](#) is now live and links with the [Facebook page](#) to update every afternoon with the number of new cases, active cases, testing numbers and vaccination rates.

The website has an excellent resource explaining the process for getting a test, including online booking.

Please continue to remind your friends and whānau to get information on COVID-19 and the vaccine from trusted sources – Positively Pacific and [Protect Greater Wellington](#), the [Ministry of Health website](#), [Unite Against COVID](#) channels, [Karawhiua](#) channels, and the [Te Puni Kōkiri 'COVID-19 Information for Māori' portal](#).

For guidance on protecting yourself and your whānau from COVID-19 misinformation and scams, please visit the [Unite Against COVID website](#).

## FUNDING FOR THE MĀORI HEALTH OMICRON OUTBREAK RESPONSE

Kia mōhio mai koutou, an additional \$29.6 million has been allocated to support Māori health and disability providers to extend the reach of their services for whānau in response to the COVID-19 Omicron outbreak.

This funding is part of a larger \$140 million package allocated to support the Māori and Pacific Omicron response. This includes support for Whānau Ora Commissioning Agencies, Māori Communities COVID-19 Fund, and Pacific Aotearoa Community Outreach Initiative.

The purpose of this funding is to help Māori health and disability providers upscale their COVID-19 operations to ensure whānau have improved access to health services and continuity of care in the community setting.

You can read more about this fund on the [Ministry of Health website](#).

## ASTRAZENECA BOOSTER INTERVAL CHANGED TO 3 MONTHS

People aged 18 and over can now get an AstraZeneca booster 3 months after their primary vaccination course. This is the same timing as the Pfizer vaccine.

AstraZeneca boosters are available on prescription for people aged 18 and over. They can get a prescription at the vaccinating AstraZeneca clinic at the same time as their appointment, or prior to their appointment with their preferred GP. Visits to GPs for a prescription for an AstraZeneca booster are free.

[bookmyvaccine.covid19.health.nz](https://bookmyvaccine.covid19.health.nz) or call the COVID Vaccination Healthline 0800 28 29 26 for an appointment.

## COVID-19 FAQs FOR PREGNANT PEOPLE

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in a lot of changes and adjustments over the past two years. With the recent emergence of the Omicron variant, changes are likely to come more quickly and the possible impact on pregnancy care and healthcare services are being managed carefully. This **attached** FAQs information sheet and poster aims to answer questions that pregnant people may have about what to expect, and to describe how to keep both themselves and their healthcare team as safe as possible through the next phase of the pandemic.

## HOSPITAL RESPONSE LEVEL UPDATE

As at **8am Friday 4 March**

- Capital & Coast DHB moved to **Hospital Response level 2** (“shifting from BAU with low COVID inpatient numbers” to “COVID growth”)
- A revised visitor policy at our hospital facilities is in effect

At level 2 of the hospital response framework, generally no visitors are permitted for general inpatients at our hospital facilities. Exceptions to this include nominated Kaitiaki/Partners in care, who may visit at any time, but are required to show vaccination status. If Kaitiaki/Partners in care are not vaccinated, they will be required to follow the mask requirements of the area they are in.

Kaitiaki are not general visitors who may come and go to visit family or friends—Kaitiaki/Partners in care are nominated and agreed between the clinical care team and whānau and may support those who are longer-term patients, or patients who require hospital services frequently. They are more involved in the care plan and actively contribute to outcomes.

## SHOUT OUT TO OUR MIQ TEAM



Not all visitors come by air. The crew on the container ship Timaru Star welcomed our MIQ swabbing team aboard so they could get tested before being allowed on shore leave. The team performed RATs so the crew got their results quicker and were able to enjoy Wellington’s balmy weather of the past few days.

Left: Vanessa Pickens, Katie Wheeler and Marie Habowska dressed for the occasion

## A NEW ADVANCE CARE PLANNING CAMPAIGN IS UNDERWAY

Advance care planning is the process of thinking about, talking about and planning for future health care, including end-of-life care. It helps you, the important people in your life, and your health care team, understand what you want – especially if you can no longer speak for yourself.

Kia whakarite: Be prepared aims to bring advance care planning to the attention of those who are less likely to know about it, but to whom it could be particularly important. The Commission has been working with young people, sports people, farmers and those working in risky professions, to talk about the importance of sharing what matters to them in their future healthcare.

Free resources are available to help you with these conversations. Go to the ‘consumer resources’ section of [myacp.org.nz](https://myacp.org.nz).

- [My advance care plan and guide](#)
- [What is advance care planning?](#)
- [Advance care planning in five steps](#)

## INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON QUALITY AND SAFETY – CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

The Institute for Healthcare Improvement & BMJ are holding a conference on Monday 6 June 2022, in Sydney.

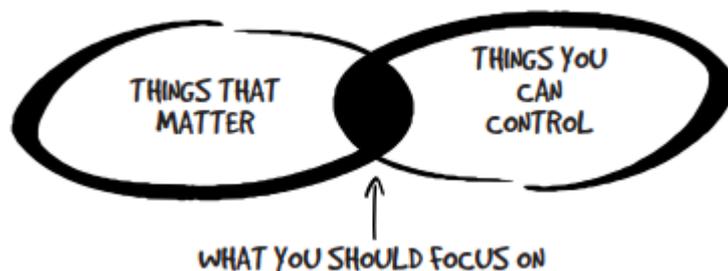
They are asking for abstracts on quality and safety projects in healthcare to be presented at the conference.

Please visit their [website](https://internationalforum.bmj.com/sydney/call-for-e posters/) for further details <https://internationalforum.bmj.com/sydney/call-for-e posters/>

The closing date for submissions is Wednesday 23 March 2022.

## WELLBEING – BEING RESILIENT

Attached is a brief guide to psychological coping during the Covid-19 pandemic. It's based on the best of science around emergency management and resilience training here in Aotearoa NZ and internationally. These are practical strategies we've seen help.



## THANK YOU

We really appreciate that many are going the extra mile in uncertain times. Stay safe and thank you for the work you do every day. If you have any questions or concerns please contact your contract manager or email us at [2DHBCommissioning@ccdhb.org.nz](mailto:2DHBCommissioning@ccdhb.org.nz) and a member of the team will respond.

## Community & Commissioning Team

2DHB Strategy, Planning & Performance