

Tuesday 31 March 2020 1500 hours

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

Swabbing/Testing

- Despite much anticipation and media about swabbing more people, we are still advised to swab as per the case definition.
- If you have suspicion including for contacts of clusters, or healthcare workers, call Community & Public Health for advice about who to swab.
- MoH has indicated there will be an update to the case definition very soon, maybe within a day. As soon as that occurs we will work with Labs, Infectious Disease and Public Health colleagues to understand the implications and update advice about community swabbing, as this also needs to take into account our lab capacity and swab supply.
- Two more Community-based Assessment Centres (CBACs) are in the process of being established in Rangiora and Amberley.

Digital Prescribing

- We understand with remote working there is some urgency around a solution for getting digital prescriptions to community pharmacies. There is information circulating nationally regarding ePrescribing (NZePS) and practices may be working on their own workaround solutions. We are working on a straightforward solution using ERMS to enable Canterbury practices to prescribe remotely and will announce this over the next 48 hours.

Flu Vaccinations

- Supplies are stretched and a new shipment is expected in New Zealand tomorrow, which will be available for distribution on 7 April.
- In the meantime please continue to vaccinate your over 65s and people with pre-existing conditions who are eligible, with a focus on Māori and Pasifika and health workers. Please refrain from vaccinating others until mid-April. Anyone who is not in a risk group should have an appointment booked for mid-April.
- A vaccinator can do the pre-vaccination check from 2 metres away and sign the consent form on behalf of the patient (e.g., p.p. pharmacist signature) thus not allowing the patient to touch the paper or pen.

CDHB Staff Requesting Medical Certificates

- For otherwise well (though vulnerable or concerned) Canterbury DHB staff who present to their general practice requesting a medical certificate, please ask them to complete the self-assessment tool available to them on the CDHB staff portal 'max'. If you have any queries contact: tyler.brummer@cdhb.health.nz.

Follow up of COVID positive Patients

- Community & Public Health will advise patients of their positive results. General practice is responsible for medical follow up, ideally by phone. If follow up is required out-of-hours, use your usual processes including calling Acute Demand to discuss. More detailed planning is underway. Management information is on [Community HealthPathways > COVID-19 Assessment and Management](#).

Kind regards,

Vince Barry
Primary EOC Controller
Canterbury Primary Response Group

www.primaryhealthresponse.org.nz