

25 March 2022

Kia ora koutou katoa

Over the past week or two I have received several emails from staff who have wanted to draw my attention to various issues. I am always keen to hear what is on people's minds and know in my role as CE that it is not always good news I will be hearing. Please rest assured that I take your feedback seriously and I do highlight the content to the people who I know have the means to address any problems.

I do understand the challenges that are being faced on the floor every day and I know that the workforce is tired, sick and looking for respite. Everyday I hear how appreciated you all are and most recently the Board Chair acknowledged on behalf of the rest of the Board all our workers both on the front line and in support, in the pharmacies and general practice and in the hospital, how hard everyone has been working to keep the community safe throughout the rohe.

Yesterday the Associate Minister of Health, Hon Ayesha Verrall, paid a visit to the corporate offices for a Health Service update and a chance to talk to our COVID response team and see first-hand the great work that has and continues to be done.

I hope the recent welfare packs have in a small way been able to show the appreciation and understanding that myself, the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) and the Board have for the continuous effort that has been extended throughout the DHB.

You have been asked to keep stepping up and you keep doing it. Redeploying, doing extra shifts and supporting each other.

There are some fabulous stories being told by people who have been able to raise their hand to be redeployed into areas they would otherwise not have experienced.

With the busyness of our COVID response the impending transition to the Māori Health Authority and Health NZ has understandably retreated to the background. But a lot of work is going on behind the scenes in this space building the foundations of the new entities.

In the next few weeks details on the proposed structure will emerge and I will keep you all informed so you are able to see if and how the transition will affect you.

---

## Changes to Services

As you will be well aware we are having to make some changes to health services due to staff shortages and additional support required in areas of high volume and need, such as ED, as we respond to the Omicron wave. We will up be updating the community twice a week on any changes to services and those updates will also be sent out to staff through Staff Notices.

Outpatient appointments are shifting to virtual consultations where possible and road access for Wairoa, due to floods and slips, has disrupted the outpatient bus from the district.

Due to staff resourcing the nurse-led clinic at City Medical Napier will be temporarily closed between 9pm and 8am and will be reviewed on 7 April 2022. The community has been directed to go to Hawke's Bay Hospital ED after 9pm for urgent medical attention.

District Nurses are rescheduling or deferring patient visits for those patients who have been assessed as less urgent and supporting patients or family to manage care. Nursing staff from within other Community Nursing teams have been redeployed to support the District Nurses with the provision of urgent care.

engAGE is prioritising urgent referrals with an aim to prevent hospital admissions and continuing to support our most vulnerable adults to remain at home.

---

## Changes to the Government's Traffic Light system

At 11.59pm tonight the requirements within the traffic light system is changing, although New Zealand still remains in the red setting. There will be no requirement for people to scan in to DHB facilities and our visitor policy will not change. The QR codes that are currently displayed within our facilities can be removed.

The other changes to the details of the updated red setting are:

- There will be no limits for outdoor activities, such as gatherings and events, and food and drink businesses. My Vaccine Passes must be used until 11:59pm on 4 April.
- There will be a 200-person limit for indoor gatherings and events — My Vaccine Passes must be used until 11:59pm on 4 April.
- If My Vaccine Passes are not used, the gathering limits remain unchanged.
- You do not need to wear a face mask outdoors.
- Other face mask rules remain unchanged — face masks are still required in most indoor settings.
- There is no requirement to scan in or for a business to display a QR code poster or have mandatory record keeping.

## New and Active COVID-19 cases as of 25 March 2022

We currently have 41 people in hospital with COVID-19.

### New & active cases by Territorial Authority

Territorial Local Authority	New	Active
Central Hawke's Bay District	67	591
Hastings District	443	3,522
Napier City	281	2,198
Wairoa District	78	495
Unknown	4	12
<b>Total:</b>	<b>873</b>	<b>6,818</b>

### Vaccinator assist 2022 – Expressions of interest

With the 2022 influenza season fast approaching the call for authorised vaccinators has gone out. If you are able to work for three months on a roster to support access to immunisation for influenza on a casual basis, your support would be greatly appreciated by the team and the community.

Please make contact by email to Jude McCool from Occupational Health - [jude.mccool@hbdhb.govt.nz](mailto:jude.mccool@hbdhb.govt.nz)

Kia kaha

Keriana



Keriana Brooking  
Chief Executive Officer