

6 April 2022

Kia ora koutou katoa

It's been a very busy start to the month around the rohe, with a large amount of catch up work being done after the heavy rains and floods. Now everything is drying out, the rhythm of business is back, and the resilience of our staff and community is heartening.

The national flu vaccination programme started on Friday 1 April. While COVID-19 has been our focus for a long time, we must not forget that with the borders being closed due to the pandemic the number of flu infections in the past two years has been low. With the borders re-opening and normal immunity against the flu and respiratory viruses reduced because we have not been exposed to them for the past two years, the likelihood of a resurgence of infection is high.

We know immunisation is the best way to protect our communities from infection and serious illness and to also reduce any additional burden on the health system. To have COVID-19 and flu in the community at the same time is a concern, so I encourage everyone to get their flu vaccination when they are able.

Last week the hospital's recently completed Theatre Admissions and Discharge Unit was formally blessed marking the completion of stage two, and the first clinical patient area, of the DHB's \$20.8 million Surgical Services Expansion Project. It's an exciting milestone and will help improve flow through the Perioperative Unit and overall patient experience.

Our COVID-19 Directorate has recently moved offices to a dedicated space that will enable them to continue the important work they do to protect and care for our community and I was extremely proud to be part of the blessing ceremony. We know the tail of COVID-19 is long and can be unpredictable so the team will be busy for some time yet.

The Our Health Kōrero has been coming to you on a weekly basis for a while and we will slow the frequency down now to every four weeks, unless of course we have vital information that we need to talk to you about.

Take care of yourselves and each other.

Changes to Services

City Medical Napier is still temporarily closed between 9pm and 8am due to staff resourcing, and its operating status 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.

Tracking without the QR Codes

With the cancellation of the Government's requirement to scan QR codes these very familiar posters have been removed throughout the DHB's premises.

However, we still need to ensure staff and patient safety and staff should scan in using their name badges when they enter and exit different areas, even when travelling as a group.

By doing this our security system can identify staff movement and those who may have been exposed to COVID-19.

New and Active COVID-19 cases as of 5 April 2022

We currently have 29 people in hospital with COVID-19.

New & active cases by Territorial Authority

Territorial Local Authority	New	Active
Central Hawke's Bay District	55	386
Hastings District	258	2,090
Napier City	257	1,685
Wairoa District	30	202
Unknown	2	25
Total:	602	4,388

Vaccinator assist 2022

With the 2022 influenza vaccination programme having started there is a need for authorised vaccinators to help roll out the programme. We need people who are able to work for three months on a roster to support access to immunisation for influenza on a casual basis. This vital 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

Kia kaha

Keriana



Keriana Brooking
Chief Executive Officer