

Media release

Thursday 7 December 2017

LOCAL HEALTHCARE SERVICES OPERATING OVER CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR HOLIDAY BREAK

Wairarapa residents requiring urgent health care over the Christmas and New Year holiday break will be able to contact the Wairarapa After Hours Service.

On Christmas Day, After Hours will operate an on-call service. People can access this by calling the main After Hours phone number: 06 370 0011.

The service will then be open 9am-5pm on the following statutory holiday days:

- Boxing Day – Tuesday 26 December
- New Year's Day – Monday 1 January
- New Year's Day holiday – Tuesday 2 January

The After Hours Service is based at Masterton Medical, however people don't need to be a patient there to use the service.

Medical practices will be open on other days over the holiday break but may have slightly altered hours. Pharmacy opening hours will vary over the Christmas and New Year period, with residents encouraged to phone their local pharmacy to check their opening hours.

Wairarapa pharmacist Viv Barham said locals on regular medication should check they have enough for the holiday break.

"Check your medication supply and arrange to have any repeat prescriptions filled in plenty of time before the holiday break. If you do run out of medication or forget to pack it, your nearest pharmacy may be able to provide you with an emergency supply," Ms Barham said.

Ms Barham said that pharmacies can provide a range of other services to help people over the holiday break when their medical centre may be closed. This includes some pharmacies being able to supply the emergency contraceptive pill as well as treatment for urinary tract infections and other conditions.

Wairarapa Hospital is also urging locals and visitors to the region to avoid the injuries and illnesses that put pressure on the hospital's Emergency Department (ED) at this time of year. This includes wounds, sprains, sunburn and insect stings from people getting active and spending time outdoors, and food and alcohol-related ailments.

"Take care with food preparation, cooking and storage to avoid illnesses related to food safety in the summer heat," Wairarapa DHB Chief Medical Officer Tom Gibson said. "Be careful when jumping into rivers and swimming in the sea and avoid swimming in local water holes after heavy rain."

Dr Gibson said locals with healthcare concerns can contact Healthline for free medical advice 24 hours a day or visit healthnavigator.org.nz for advice and information.

For more information contact:

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