

Media release

Hospital in code red

7 August 2019

Wairarapa hospital is in code red, with all its beds full.

A raft of illness and injury has increased demand on the hospital, stretching capacity to its limits. Staff have responded by cancelling elective surgery and repurposing the hospital's Day Procedure Unit for inpatients. Extra staff have been called in to work overnight.

"There are no particular illness or injury presentations that have caused the increased demand," said Chief Medical Officer, Shawn Sturland. "Every patient that is admitted needs to be here."

"Our priority is to ensure we have the number of staff on hand required to cope, and some staff have had to come in off-roster. We are grateful that we have a great team that are quick to help out when needed."

Medical Practices and ambulance staff have been informed and asked to provide care for patients in primary care and in the community where it is appropriate to do so, however care should be sought where it is needed.

"As always, if people need urgent care they should not hesitate to come to the emergency department," Shawn said.

ENDS

For more information:

Anna Cardno | Communications Manager Wairarapa DHB

Mobile: 027 205 24 22

anna.cardno@wairarapa.dhb.org.nz

Additional information:

Wairarapa Hospital has 74 inpatient beds.

An additional 24 beds are provided in the emergency department, the Day Procedure Unit and in Selena Sutherland Hospital. These beds are not usually used for inpatient care, but when the hospital has exceeded capacity, they can be allocated in order to cope with the Code Red demand.