

Media release

20 August 2021

Your healthcare under alert Level 4

With Alert Level 4 continuing through until next week, the pressure is on providers to deliver safe care while meeting demand and still complying with the requirements of the response measures. Here are the changes you can expect to see at the hospital, and in the community.

Visitors to Wairarapa Hospital

No visitors are allowed in the hospital, unless they are

- a paediatric patient primary carer - only one primary carer at a time, in the same bubble as the child, preferably the same person if possible.
- supporting a labouring mother - one support person only during Level 4

Exceptions to visiting Level 4 rules can only be agreed, in advance, with the clinical lead of the department. Exemptions will be rare.

Everyone coming into the hospital will be screened

Questions will be asked about your health, any recent travel and any possible connection with Covid-19 cases. People may be turned away from the hospital at that point. Please understand this is to keep our patients, staff and you safe.

Procedures and appointments

Most planned care patient appointments have been cancelled under Level 4. We will be working hard to resume planned care as soon as possible. If your appointment has been cancelled, you will hear from us.

Vaccination

Naturally, people want to be vaccinated as soon as possible. Our excellent vaccine delivery in Wairarapa to date will be limited now in order to meet 2m distance requirements, reducing the number of people we can vaccinate at any one time. We are looking at alternative ways to deliver vaccination to increase our capacity. The best way to book vaccinations right now is online at www.BookMyVaccine.nz as the national phone booking line is overwhelmed.

Right now, bookings can be made by anyone in Group 1-3, and over 40 years. If you are over 40 years and want to have your child aged 12+ vaccinate with you, you can book them at the same time.

Testing

If you have flu like symptoms, have visited a place of interest, or live with someone who has, you must be tested for Covid-19 and isolate if you are advised to.

Thanks to our primary care partners, testing is available at medical practices. They can take casual patients, but it MUST be by appointment. Phone first. In the weekend, testing is provided by Wairarapa After Hours between 10:30 and 12:30, and 1pm and 3pm at Masterton Medical. Phone 06 370 0011.

Seek care BEFORE it's urgent

The Emergency Department is ONLY for emergencies.

If it is NOT urgent, it is not the place for you. You will wait a long time for care at ED if your condition is not prioritised.

Non urgent people should be seen by their medical practice, or ask for advice at a Pharmacy, Healthline 0800 611 116 or the Covid-19 Healthline 0800 358 5453.

ENDS

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