

Media release

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What does Level 2 mean for our health service?

“We need to be cautious and we need to be considerate.”

That is the advice of the District Health Board, following the government announcement that Wairarapa is now at Level 2 alert in the Covid-19 response.

Dale Oliff, Chief Executive of Wairarapa DHB, says that people that are sick with any symptoms of COVID-19 need to get tested.

“People with a sore throat, cough or difficulty breathing – the usual signs of a winter ‘flu – need to get tested for Covid-19,” Oliff said.

“It is critical that we work quickly to stamp out any sign of the virus, and the way to do that is to be tested if we have symptoms, to stay away from others while we are sick, and to practice good hand hygiene.”

People who are sick should phone their medical practice or call Healthline on 0800 611 116 for advice.

“If you have flu-type symptoms, phone first. Your medical practice will tell you what to do to ensure you don’t risk infecting other people while you seek treatment.”

While the country has escalated alert levels, it is mostly business as usual at the hospital.

“We are continuing with normal surgical activity in the hospital. Clinics and appointments are running as normal, and people that are booked to come in should do so unless they hear otherwise,” Oliff advised.

“Physical distancing can be difficult in a clinical environment and, where people expect to be in close proximity, they are encouraged to wear a mask. Visiting is not restricted but we do suggest visitors bring their own mask with them, and wear it as they see fit,” Oliff said.

“Our healthcare teams across the hospital and primary care are providing full services and Wairarapa people should not delay in seeking the care they need.”

- If you have an appointment scheduled - please attend as usual.
- If you are sick with flu like symptoms, please stay home and phone ahead for advice.

- Visitors may be asked to wear a mask while in the hospital if they cannot meet distancing recommendations. We suggest you bring a mask with you.
- No visiting restrictions are currently in place.

ENDS

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