

Winter Wellness & COVID-19 Update

Pharmacists now supplying COVID-19 Antiviral Medicines

- Pharmacies in Auckland are now supplying antiviral medicines (Paxlovid and Lageviro) to eligible people with COVID-19 who are at higher risk of becoming very sick, without needing a prescription. Both medicines help reduce hospitalisation for those most at risk and both are available for FREE.
- The aim is to boost access to COVID-19 medication, as well as reduce pressure at GPs.
- People can find a list of pharmacies offering this service on Healthpoint <https://www.healthpoint.co.nz/pharmacy/?serviceArea=im%3A1382476>

RATs and Masks for Vulnerable Individuals and Households

- Free RATs should be pre-ordered for collection for up to 12 people at <https://requestrats.covid19.health.nz/> or by calling 0800 222 478. Larger numbers have to be ordered via 0800 222 478.
- Individuals and households can collect Rapid Antigen Tests(RATs) and face masks free of charge at COVID-19 Community Testing Centres (CTCs) and RAT Collection Centres(RCCs).
- Medical masks are given to most people, however N95 masks will be provided to those who are clinically vulnerable, or other high risk individuals.
- In the event someone cannot place an order, they can access free RATs without an order via CTCs. They will be asked the following at the site; Name, NHI (if known) and Date of Birth.

Ordering staff supplies through the online PPE Portal

- The Ministry of Health's COVID-19 PPE Central Supply provides supplies directly to New Zealand's health care workers that contribute to New Zealand's response to COVID-19.
- The criteria that need to be met to order PPE from the Ministry of Health can be found here (<https://www.health.govt.nz/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-information-specific-audiences/covid-19-personal-protective-equipment-central-supply>) or by emailing mohppeordering@prnzl.co.nz.
- To check whether your organisation already has an account, email COVID.HealthSupplyChain@health.govt.nz or mohppeordering@prnzl.co.nz.

COVID-19 and flu news

- As of 31st July positive COVID-19 notified cases declined to around 2,500-3,000 per day across the Northern Region (Auckland and Northland), over the last week. However, rates in the 65+ age group are rising at the fastest rate of all age groups.
- There are around 60-70 COVID-19 positive hospitalisations a day, showing a similar “pause” in growth, as there has been in COVID-19 cases.
- There are between 200-250 active COVID-19 patients in Northern Region hospitals.
- In relation to the flu season, influenza cases have declined from peak volumes, however, there remains the risk of influenza cases increasing again over August and September.
- Funded flu immunisation is available through a number of community pharmacies without appointment for eligible populations, or from your GP with an appointment – a list of pharmacies offering this service is available on Healthpoint: <https://www.healthpoint.co.nz/pharmacy/?serviceArea=im%3A460472>

The source of information: Northern Region Health Coordination Centre (NRHCC)

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