

Updates from LMC Covid Liaison & LMC Liaison 7/4/22

- **The good news is that the Covid-19 infection rate is declining but we expect surges and troughs over the next couple of months. However, having said that, staffing is already in a critical state and is expected to worsen over the next 3-4 weeks taking into account Easter, ANZAC Day and school holidays when casual staff are not so available. If any LMC has any capacity to work for even a few hours please contact Katherine.Gee@cdhb.health.nz**
- **Referrals for all C+ Māmā to continue**
Fetal Growth Restriction is a real concern with Omicron BA2 variant. There is very little evidence to inform our practice with respect to care of hapu māmā who have had Covid at any gestation other than the recent v15 RCOG report published 7/3/22. The SMO's/obstetricians at CWH are recommending that SFH is measured weekly from 36/40 as there have been several instances where fetal growth has plummeted rapidly. Increased surveillance is the only way we will be able to detect FGR. Palpation, SFH & fetal movements are all potent indicators of fetal wellbeing. It is not yet known whether hapu māmā having covid at any gestation is causing placental dysfunction so we must assume that it has the potential to do so until we have evidence suggesting a different narrative.
- **Modified Covid-19 Triage Referral Form**
The Covid-19 Triage Referral Form has been updated to simplify the process of referral and triaging. The updated form has been loaded onto Expect Maternity under Form Letters and in the TIAKI forms/documents library.
- **CDHB Staffing at Crisis Point**
LMC forum planned for Monday 11th April at 1-2pm to discuss possible staffing solutions.
- **C+ LMC's**
In any week there are about 10 LMC's in the active phase of Covid with 33 LMC's who have advised of their status. Thank you all for being so organised with covering your caseloads for periods of sickness.
- **Covid Positive Partners/Support People**
It has come to our attention this week that a C+ support person did not divulge their Covid status until after the woman had birthed by C/section having previously denied any of the questions in the Covid questionnaire. Please have conversations with support people advising them that if they are **C+ and asymptomatic** they can support the birthing person so long as they wear an N95 and undertake all other hygiene measures.
- **Antigua Street Staff Covid Testing Centre is Closed Permanently**
From Wednesday 6/4/22 onwards, health system staff can access PCR testing via the Orchard Road (9am – 4pm, 7 days a week) and Whānau Ora (9am – 3.30pm, 7 days a week) Testing Centres. **Bookings are essential** via staff.testing@cdhb.health.nz Once approved for PCR testing, you'll receive a text to your phone. When you arrive at either site, please show the testing staff your text message and staff ID badge.
- **Vaccine Mandates**
Vaccine mandates are still in place for health & disability, aged residential care, corrections, border workers and MIQ staff.
- **Covid-19 Tracer App**
The Covid-19 Tracer App QR code is no longer required to be displayed or used. Please remove all signage containing reference to the Tracer App.

- **PCR tests for RAT positive inpatients**

All inpatients who return a positive RAT on admission will need PCR testing to meet MOH genome sequencing requirements. Please ensure all RAT results are uploaded to Éclair. If you are unsure of this process, please ask a core staff member to show you.

- **Mask disposal at CDHB Campus**

There are designated rubbish bins for the disposal of masks in the CDHB car parks.

Ngā mihi nui

Catherine Rietveld / Sonya Gray

Covid Liaison Midwife / LMC Liaison