



Updates from LMC Covid Liaison & LMC Liaison 13/7/22

- **‘Old CHOC’ now open to staff wanting a second booster – drop-ins, no appointment necessary**

A second booster of the Pfizer vaccine is now available to all Waitaha Canterbury health staff aged 30 and over. It must be at least six months since your first booster or three months post COVID-19 infection, whichever date is later. Further detail on eligibility is available [here](#).

Old CHOC is run as an inpatient service but is also open to staff from 9am to 4pm, Monday to Friday. If that isn't convenient, you can find alternatives here: [Find a clinic in Canterbury](#)

The Novavax & Pfizer vaccines are both approved for the second booster dose. With COVID-19 still very much on the rampage it's well worth topping up your immunity. Evidence shows it will provide some added protection and you will likely have milder symptoms if you do get COVID-19. Just as importantly, you'll also be less likely to pass it on to someone more vulnerable – most of the cases we see in hospital are elderly or have comorbidities that put them at greater risk. If you would like a booster vaccine, please phone ahead to ensure that stocks are available 03 3640 640 and ask reception for “Old CHOC”

- **Please note that there have been changes made to the referral requirements for Covid Positive Māmā, from now onwards you need to use the regular Obstetric Referral Form that you would use for other conditions and follow the NZ Community Health Pathways using the link below.**

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- **1. Covid-19 pregnancy pathway**

The recommendation for all COVID-19 positive pregnant women to be referred for obstetric review has been rescinded and changed to a risk-based approach. Referral for obstetric review is now recommended only for those who have a moderate or high risk of complications from COVID-19 and / or moderate to severe COVID-19 symptoms. Both the Ministry of Health's *Care Framework for pregnant women/people isolating in the community with COVID-19* (attached and available on the [Ministry of Health website](#)) and the [NZ Community Health Pathways – COVID-19 pregnancy pathway](#) have been updated to reflect this change.

- **2. Covid booster doses**

The government has recently announced that a second booster dose of the Covid vaccine is available for those over 50 years of age and those over 30 years of age who are health and disability workers. A second booster dose is recommended for those who are at increased risk of severe illness, but is not considered necessary for those who are younger or healthier, including those who are pregnant, unless they are in one of groups identified below:

- People aged 65 years and over
- Māori and Pacific peoples aged 50 years and over
- Residents of aged care facilities
- Severely immunocompromised people who received a three-dose primary course and fourth dose as a booster
- People aged 16 years and over who have a medical condition that increases risk of severe Covid-19 illness
- People aged 16 years and over who live with a disability with significant or complex health needs or multiple comorbidities

The IMAC website contains more information about booster doses for those who may be considering whether to take up the option for themselves, or to inform discussions they may be having with women and whānau.

Message from the Te Whatu Ora Waitaha Incident Management Team:

Kia ora koutou

As you know, the ongoing pressure of COVID-19 and seasonal viruses on our health system means we are struggling with high demand and considerable staff shortages.

Te Whatu Ora Waitaha Canterbury is currently at an Orange alert setting, but our situation will likely worsen before it gets better, which may mean our next step is escalating to Red alert. A change to Red would further limit non-essential services and tighten visitor restrictions.

Our Incident Management Team (IMT) is acting to ensure safe oversight of care is delivered and to provide as much support as we can to our frontline staff. We are already reassigning staff to assist in the areas of greatest need and urgently need volunteers to provide additional support to clinical teams. We are looking for:

- *Any staff member not currently working in a clinical role who has a current, valid practising certificate to assist in a clinical capacity, and*
- *Any staff who have previous experience volunteering and supporting patients in a non-clinical capacity, such as during industrial action. These volunteers have provided support that includes patient comforts, bed-making and meal assistance and do not require a practising certificate.*

If you are able to help where it is so urgently needed, please:

- *Speak with your line manager and get their okay to volunteer. Agree on your hours of availability.*
- *Email SWOCStaffing@cdhb.health.nz with the following details:*
 - *Your name*
 - *Your department*
 - *Your best contact number*
 - *Advise if you have a valid practising certificate (clinical volunteer) or you have previous volunteering experience (in a non-clinical capacity)*
 - *Advise your hours/days of availability*
 - *Let them know if you have a preferred campus – Christchurch, Hillmorton, Burwood, Ashburton or Kaikōura.*

Someone will be in touch to discuss where we can put your skills to best use, terms and conditions and payment information. Available and suitably qualified staff are encouraged to support our clinical teams.

Thank you so much in advance for any assistance you can offer. Unprecedented staff sickness coupled with the school holidays have stretched our people resources and this has the potential to further disrupt services already under severe pressure.

Tracey Maisey

Incident Controller

Waitaha Canterbury Incident Management Team

Catherine Rietveld / Sonya Gray

Covid Liaison Midwife / LMC Liaison