

# WellSouth Update

29 June 2022

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## Kia ora koutou -

WellSouth Update is a regular e-newsletter for general practice teams, community pharmacy and other providers in Southland and Otago.

To subscribe or to provide feedback or submissions, please email [communications@wellsouth.org.nz](mailto:communications@wellsouth.org.nz) Thank you.

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## Notification of Covid Positive Patients

Information from the Ministry of Health has indicated that notifications of Covid positive patients to GP Inboxes will only be for "high-risk" patients, starting from tomorrow **30 June 2022**. ESR notifications will continue so that General Practice is aware of all positive patients in the practice. The purpose is to reduce the number of notifications going to GP Inboxes. The Covid Coordination Centre will continue to send a daily email notification of all positive patients enrolled in your practice, and this information is also available in Thalamus. Criteria for a patient to be considered high-risk are detailed below:

- *There is a probable case that has been entered into NCTS manually (Probable and Source = Manual)*
  - *Information that may trigger a Therapeutics prescription; symptoms AND last 5 days AND Immunocompromised,*
  - *Patient has 1 or more severe illnesses (Underlying conditions),*
  - *One or more of the More Serious Symptoms have been ticked: New or worse trouble with breathing, severe dehydration such as a very dry mouth not peeing very much, feeling lightheaded or dizzy, a severe headache*
  - *The patient has identified that they are currently pregnant, or gave birth in the last 6 weeks*
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## Telephone and video interpreting provider change

The Ministry of Health has a fully funded interpreting service (including sign language), to support the management of people with COVID-19. There has been a change to this service provider.

**Connecting Now** will be providing interpreting services previously provided by **Ezispeak**. There should be no change to the interpreting services currently provided, except for how users access the service. The access PIN codes will remain the same.

Please find the updated user guide and accompanying PIN code below:

[Southern Region user guide](#)

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## Staff shortages at Dunedin Sexual Health Clinic

The Dunedin Site Sexual Health Services are experiencing staffing shortages with no ability to strengthen their capacity.

Please limit ERMS referrals and phone calls to urgent only until **29 July 2022**.

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## Coroners (Doctors Fees) Regulations 2022

The Ministry of Justice have been working to implement payments to doctors for completing medical reports requested by a coroner under section 40 of the Coroners Act 2006.

The Coroners (Doctors Fees) Regulations 2022 are due to come into force on **1 July 2022**.

The Regulations have the following key features:

- Fee rate – the fee payable is at a rate of \$200 + GST per hour.
- Fee model – fees will be paid at an hourly rate, calculated on a pro rata basis rounded up to the nearest minute, up to a cap of four hours.
- Eligibility – payments will be made to doctors in private practice only. This excludes doctors employed by District Health Boards (DHBs) and other doctors already paid by a public service agency to write s 40 reports as part of their duties.

Information relating to these updates can be found on the Coronial Services of New Zealand website. - <https://coronialservices.justice.govt.nz/section-40-coroners-act-2006-payments/>

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## Annual Statement of Reasonable Fees Increase 2022/23

The Annual Statement of Reasonable Fees Increase was distributed to practices last week. If you wish to increase your practice fees please complete the Fees Increase Form and return to [Lisa.win@wellsouth.org.nz](mailto:Lisa.win@wellsouth.org.nz)

Fee increases can take up to 21 days to be approved.

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## WellSouth Funded Programmes

The latest guidelines for criteria, codes, and information on WellSouth Funded Programmes can be found on the [WellSouth website](#) in Provider Access/Practice Resources.

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## Reminder: Boosting vaccination rates among healthcare workers

The Ministry of Health is aiming for flu vaccination rates for health workers to be 80%.

To support health and disability workers not employed by DHBs, the Ministry of Health reimburse employers for the costs associated with vaccinating their patient and client-facing employees. This offer includes those working in (but not limited to):

- General practice
- Private hospitals
- Disability services
- Pharmacies
- Aged residential care facilities
- Hauora Māori and Pacific health practices

## Reimbursement

Applications for flu vaccination reimbursement will be processed between 1 May 2022 and 30 September 2022. Guidance on applying for reimbursement can be found here:

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/influenza#reimbursement>

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### Reminder: PCR testing code for overseas arrivals

Reminder that anyone arriving in New Zealand is required to take a day 0/1 and a day 5/6 RAT test. If they test positive with their RAT, they require a PCR.

Please use **SURV-SELF** for these people as this will trigger whole genome sequencing, this is how we are keeping our borders safe and detecting new strains.

#### Code reminder:

**SURV-SELF** - Self Isolation - For ALL arrivals to NZ within 7 days with positive rats.

**SURV-REINF** - For potential reinfections

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