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COVID-19 Vaccine Updates

- From March 7 2024 the:
 - COVID-19 Comirnaty Omicron XBB.1.5 (30mcg) vaccine product replaces the previous COVID-19 Comirnaty mRNA-CV (30mcg) monovalent vaccine and COVID-19 Comirnaty mRNA-CV Bivalent (15mcg/15mcg)
 - COVID-19 Comirnaty Omicron XBB.1.5 (30mcg) vaccine product is approved to be administered for primary and additional doses
 - COVID-19 Comirnaty mRNA-CV Bivalent (15mcg/15mcg) has been delisted and should not be used to record additional doses.
- If your PMS has not yet been updated, follow your existing process to record the COVID-19 Comirnaty Omicron XBB.1.5 (30mcg) vaccine using the code and description used for the COVID-19 Comirnaty mRNA-CV (30mcg) monovalent vaccine. This should be used to record primary and additional doses.
- Please note: MedTech users should select the relevant dose with the code "CMNDT" and description "CVID Cmrnty No Dil"
- The COVID-19 Comirnaty mRNA-CV Bivalent (15mcg/15mcg) has been delisted, and care should be taken not to record additional doses using this code (CVX300) and description.
- If you use the AIR vaccinator portal, select COVID-19 Comirnaty Omicron XBB.1.5 (30mcg) from the drop-down list.
- Any clinical queries contact IMAC on 0800 466 863.

<p>Changes to COVID-19 Testing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From March 4 2024, recommended COVID-19 testing advice for household contacts of a positive COVID-19 case changed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Household contacts of a positive COVID-19 case who do not have COVID-19 symptoms are no longer recommended to test daily with a rapid antigen test (RAT) for 5 days following a positive COVID-19 case in the household. ○ If a household contact of a positive COVID-19 case develops one or more COVID-19 symptoms, they are recommended to stay at home and test for COVID-19 using a RAT. • This change aligns with public health guidance that advises RAT testing is generally not recommended when a person does not have any COVID-19 symptoms. • Testing for COVID-19 with RATs remains an important tool to support effective ongoing management of COVID-19 outbreaks in high-risk facilities, help reduce the impact of COVID-19 on hospital admission rates and enable eligible people to access antiviral medications. • Recommended COVID-19 testing advice continues to support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ RAT testing if symptomatic. ○ PCR testing if a result can influence treatment options.
<p>COVID-19 Testing Plan and Guidance Documents</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The COVID-19 testing plan and supporting guidance documents have provided a reference point for the COVID-19 testing principles, while aligning with the strategic direction and management of the disease. • Regular reviews have been undertaken to ensure content has remained fit for purpose and has continued to be aligned with changes to government policy. • In October 2023 Te Whatu Ora undertook a post winter review in consultation with clinical and public health experts from within Te Whatu Ora and the National Public Health Agency, to seek advice on future testing advice to support those at risk of severe illness from COVID-19. • The review has resulted in the following agreement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The COVID-19 testing plan and guidance documents in their current state are no longer fit for purpose and these documents will be removed from the Te Whatu Ora website. ○ On 4 March 2024, COVID-19 testing content that remains relevant for certain sector groups was transferred to the COVID-19 chapter of the Communicable Diseases Manual and/or HealthPathways. ○ Redundant information that is no longer needed for other sector groups was not transferred. • If you have any questions about this update, please email COVID-19testing@health.govt.nz.

<p>Flu Season 2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2024 flu season health promotion activity will begin on 2 April. This activity aims to drive early vaccination amongst priority groups through increasing awareness and building on community outreach efforts, with continued focus on hapū māmā, and Māori and Pacific people. • On 28 February Pharmac announced the 2024 free flu vaccine eligibility criteria. In summary, flu vaccines are free for all people 65 years and over, people with long-term conditions (like asthma and diabetes), those who are pregnant, and people with specific mental health conditions or addiction issues. Full access criteria for 2024 can be found on the Pharmac website. • In 2022 and 2023 Pharmac widened access to the flu vaccine with funding made available as part of the government’s response to COVID-19 and its impacts. Pharmac used the ring-fenced COVID-19 treatment budget to pay for children up to 12 years of age, and all Māori and Pacific people between 55 and 64 years of age to access the vaccine. This funding has now ended so these groups are no longer eligible in 2024.
<p>Completing the Aotearoa HealthPathways Survey</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Te Whatu Ora is conducting a survey to understand the value of HealthPathways for end users. The survey will be open from March 11 – April 5 and will take only a few minutes to complete, and answers are anonymous. • Answers to this survey will help Te Whatu Ora and Streamliners have an improved understanding of HealthPathways user experiences to shape future priorities and improvements. • Whilst primarily designed for Community HealthPathways users, the survey is also open to Hospital HealthPathways users, and non-clinical staff that engage with HealthPathways. • Access to the survey is here
<p>Ruruku: Latest News and Updates March 7 2024 View online</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please see the link to the latest news from Te Whatu Ora and Te Aka Whai Ora.
<p>National Data Platform Monthly Update February 2024 <i>Newsletter attached</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See the attached newsletter for the latest updates from the National Data Platform.
<p>Kanueke Update March 2024 View online</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Click on the attached link to view Pharmac’s March 2024 update.
<p>Supply Issue Update: Morphine Oral Liquid <i>See attached email and embedded datasheets</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please see the attached email on the current status with morphine oral liquid and datasheets on Wockhardt and Oramorph morphine liquid.

<p>GP Webinar: New Advances in Lymphoedema Detection and Management for GPs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See link click here to register for a webinar aimed at GP's to learn more about screening for lymphoedema, developed by the Australasian Lymphology Association. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Date: Wednesday 1 May 2024 ○ Time: 7:00pm - 8:30pm CST • Download the flyer here
<p>Goodfellow Unit Upcoming Webinars, F2F, Podcast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Webinars: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hepatitis elimination and management March 12: Register here ○ Female hormone odyssey March 26: Register here ○ Navigating RSV management April 9: Register here ○ Subfertility April 16: Register here ○ Don't miss that ARF diagnosis April 23: Register here • Face to Face: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sexuality & Intimacy Workshop June 2024 Places are limited, so register early • Podcast: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Primary Ovarian Insufficiency Podcast and resources here
<p>Webinar: Empowering GP Teams Equity and Insights in Cognitive Impairment View online</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HealthPathways teams across Aotearoa have been working with clinical experts on a nationally aligned cognitive impairment pathway which outlines agreed best practice and supports local service provision. • This webinar explores why it's important to assess and provide a diagnosis for patients with cognitive impairment and how to guide patients and their whānau to get the support they need. • Will be held Wednesday April 3 2024 7.00pm – 8.00pm, see attached link to register.
<p>Recording and Survey: Building the Future of Health Virtual Hui March 6 2024 View online</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you were unable to attend this virtual hui, you can access the recording and other information by clicking on the attached link.
<p>Top Weekend Viewing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As it's International Women's Day today, our weekend viewing is focusing on Jane Austen movies... but not movies based on her books, these are movies based on themes around Jane Austen so enjoy! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Becoming Jane (Prime Video) - A biographical portrait of a pre-fame Jane Austen and her romance with a young Irishman. View trailer ○ Jane Austen Book Club (Neon) - When Sylvia is dumped by her husband, two of her friends organise a book club to keep her distracted. The objective is to read a Jane Austen novel, only to realise that life imitates art in many ways. View trailer ○ Austenland (TVNZ+) - Owing to her obsession for Jane Austen's 'Pride and Prejudice', Jane embarks on a vacation to a Jane Austen-theme park in order to look for her soulmate. View trailer

