

Welcome to the New Zealand Rural General Practice Network e-zine for 1 May 2020



In this issue: MSD makes temporary changes as part of COVID-19 response • Coronavirus: Retired nurses, doctors sign up to help if Covid-19 pandemic worsens • Not much change between levels at Dunstan Hospital • Coronavirus: Changes to GPs at level three and beyond much more...



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NETWORK IN THE MEDIA

Dalton Kelly, NZRGPN Chief Executive, RNZ [Audio player](#). Dalton Kelly, Northern Advocate Covid 19 coronavirus: [More remote testing units open in Northland, with no undetected transmission](#). Dalton Kelly, NewsTalk ZB [NZ City](#). Dalton Kelly, NZ Doctor [Overseas GPs still applying to work in NZ](#) (login required). Media release [Scoop](#).

COVID-19 NEWS

MSD makes temporary changes as part of COVID-19 response

The Ministry of Social Development (MSD) has made some temporary changes to document requirements as part of the COVID-19 response.

The changes are helping to make things easier for people and ensure they continue to receive support during this time. Here is an overview of some key changes they've made:

[Read more.](#)

COVID-19 advice line for primary and community health clinicians – MoH

Coronavirus: Retired nurses, doctors sign up to help if Covid-19 pandemic worsens

Nearly 9000 retired or out-of-work medical workers have registered to bolster staff numbers if the coronavirus pandemic worsens, 54 of which have been deployed. (Stuff)

Of this, 1196 are doctors and 2002 are registered nurses, while the rest are care and support workers, aged care, kaiawhina workers and others working in the disability sector.

[Read more.](#)

Not much change between levels at Dunstan Hospital

Level 3 Covid-19 restrictions at Dunstan Hospital closely resemble those put in place for Level 4. (ODT)

As the hospital transitioned between alert levels, Central Otago Health Services chief executive Dr Kathryn de Luc thanked people for abiding by lockdown rules.

[Read more.](#)

Coronavirus: Changes to GPs at level three and beyond

While "very little" will change for GPs under level three restrictions, the impacts of [coronavirus](#) will be felt within the sector for years to come. (Stuff)

Under level three, GPs would still be seeing most patients virtually, but perhaps would have more ability to refer patients into the hospital system.

[Read more.](#)

Coronavirus: NZMA wants health system review released

As the health system reels in the face of Covid-19, doctors say the time is right for serious reform. (RNZ)

[Listen here.](#)

ALSO read [General Practice New Zealand \(GPNZ\) Calls for Health And Disability System Review publication](#) [Epidemic Response Committee hears from medical experts: 'GPs are feeling almost abandoned'](#).

Coronavirus: Healthcare workers make up 1 in 10 of New Zealand's Covid-19 cases

More than one in every 10 cases of [coronavirus](#) in New Zealand have been in healthcare workers. (Stuff)

Figures provided to Stuff by the Ministry of Health shows that, as of Tuesday (April 28), 115 healthcare workers across the country have contracted Covid-19.

[Read more.](#)

Coronavirus: Hopes of an early exit to level 2 for Taranaki derailed by new cases

High expectations Taranaki could drop down Covid-19 alert levels sooner than the rest of the country have been sunk by the discovery of two new infections in the region. (Taranaki Daily News)

Taranaki went 24 days without a new coronavirus case but the streak came to an end on Sunday (April 26) when it was revealed a woman in her 50s tested positive several weeks after returning from international travel in what was described as an "unusual situation" by authorities.

[Read more.](#)

South Canterbury drive-through clinics well supported

The uptake for influenza vaccinations in South Canterbury has been strong, with many "anxious to get out and get their vaccine", one doctor says. (Stuff)

A drive-through clinic, set up at Timaru Medical Centre on Tuesday (April 28), administered at least 80 flu jabs, allowing patients to receive the vaccine without having to congregate in the clinic.

[Read more.](#)

Rural broadband network gets \$15m investment

The government has allocated up to \$15 million to improve rural broadband capacity. (RNZ)

Broadcasting Minister Kris Faafoi said investment in the rural network would help with the development and wellbeing of isolated communities as the economy recovers from Covid-19.

[Read more.](#)

Links

- Ministry of Health online bulletins, click [here](#).
- The Ministry of Health website has a dedicated COVID-19 [website](#).
- The Royal New Zealand College of GPs has dedicated resources on their [website](#).
- ACC provider updates COVID-19 click [here](#).
- Leaning on Fence Posts, Otago University rural research blog, click [here](#).
- Health Workforce New Zealand stakeholder bulletin, click [here](#).
- Mobile Health news, click [here](#).
- Medline (USA rural health) click [here](#).
- Death Documents Project (Ministry of Health), click [here](#).
- Health Promotion Agency (HPA) SunSmart campaign, [Click here](#)
- Health Quality & Safety Commission Implicit Bias (resource video), [click here](#).



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Testimonial

"NZLocums has been instrumental in allowing me to fulfill my dream of relocating to New Zealand and working as a GP here. They offered me guidance from the earliest stages till the Orientation before starting work. I had a specific contact in NZLocums who helped at every stage and was very responsive to any queries I had. The Orientation material and programme were invaluable in getting me familiar with the workings of the NZ health system. I cannot thank them enough."

Dr Nicole Yuen, Singapore

TELL US YOUR COVID-19 STORY

We are looking for health sector-related stories from around rural New Zealand. People, places, achievements and challenges. If you have a good yarn to tell contact Network communications manager Rob Olsen, email rob@rgpn.org.nz or 021 472 556.