

3 March 2021

Tēnā koutou,

I am pleased that as I write to you all for the first time this year the COVID-19 vaccine programme is being rolled out. In Hawke's Bay some of our frontline public health nurses have just had their first dose.

These nurses will begin the first stage of rolling out the vaccination programme to our border workers over the coming weeks. Once these workers have been vaccinated, their families will follow. Frontline healthcare workers will be next, which will affect many of you.

I'm sure, like me, you have been fielding questions about the vaccine from whānau and friends. We need to be available and able to answer those questions. There is a lot of information on [www.ourhealthb.nz](http://www.ourhealthb.nz) and a great video you can watch from Director General of Health Ashley Bloomfield [here](#). The Unite Against COVID-19 website also has plenty of useful information and resources about the [vaccine](#).

I'd like to thank our frontline vaccinators and border workers who are leading the charge to protect us. They are our first line of defence against an enemy none of us can see. You can read more about how we're planning to rollout the vaccine in this newsletter.



Pictured: Keriana with Ngahiwi Tomoana opening the first Ngākau Ora session.

## Alert Level 2

The country's alert levels changed on Sunday, following two more COVID-19 community cases. Auckland has moved to Alert Level 3 and the rest of the country, like us, has moved to Alert Level 2. Our visitor policy, for all our facilities, has been updated and can be found [here](#). We are again reminded of the importance of staying at home if you have COVID-19 symptoms, getting tested and remaining at home until you receive a negative test result.

## Being prepared

Since January I have been able to meet many more of you, as well as a number of our sector partners. I also attended the very moving service that was held to mark the 90th anniversary of the 1931 Napier earthquake. Last week when a 4.3 magnitude earthquake shook Hawke's Bay I was reminded again that, as health professionals, we need to be prepared and ready for anything.

This is why our COVID-19 resurgence planning is so important. We have been working on a comprehensive plan so we are prepared. Thank you to our incident controllers, Hayley Anderson and Ken Foote, who have worked hard to get the plan finalised and for their work incorporating so many components to make it a robust and useful strategy.

## Farewell to Wayne Woolrich

We bid farewell to Health Hawke's Bay's chief executive Wayne Woolrich this month. Wayne has led many changes to the way we work with our primary care partners and has been a valuable member of the Executive Leadership Team, bringing the primary care perspective into our meetings and discussions. I will be sad to say goodbye to him on 12 March. Wayne will be working with Health Hawke's Bay's team to ensure a smooth transition as the Board goes through the process of appointing a new chief executive.

## Ngākau Ora

I was privileged to attend and open the first Ngākau Ora programme session with Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Chair Ngahiwi Tomoana. The programme aims to develop quality relationships with whānau, communities and staff and evolved out of learnings from South Central Foundation (NUKA), feedback from the Big Listen and engagement with Ngāti Kahungunu. We had great feedback about the first of these two-day sessions. It was a privilege to have Ngahiwi there. He took us all back 5,000 years with his vivid, meaningful and real account of our history as adventurous and innovative people, and was a hard act for me to follow. I started my kōrero stating I had never felt Ngāti Kahungunu flowing through my veins more strongly!

## Health and Disability System Review

Change as a result of the Health and Disability System Review will start to take shape this year and we will know more about how future healthcare will be delivered. We remain thoughtful about areas we should not lose sight of during change – our people, infrastructure, community equity, improvement and safety. There may be areas we will need to respond to quickly as changes are revealed and we are working actively with the Board, and at a broader governance level, on the challenges and opportunities ahead.

We recognise that change can be unsettling but we can't pre-empt outcomes or exhaust our energies too much in what is already a busy environment. I am committed to keeping you informed as we learn more. As always, I am available and welcome your input and thoughts on any subject. Please email me [keriana.brooking@hbdhb.govt.nz](mailto:keriana.brooking@hbdhb.govt.nz)

Ngā mihi,  
Keriana



Keriana Brooking  
Chief Executive Officer

## Latest news

### COVID-19 vaccination rollout begins in Hawke's Bay

Hawke's Bay's COVID-19 vaccination team were the first in our community to receive the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine last week as they prepare to start vaccinating about 1,000 border workers and their household contacts.

The DHB are working with the Ministry of Health and our primary healthcare colleagues to rollout New Zealand's largest immunisation programme ever in Hawke's Bay. Our first vaccinators and vaccination administrators have completed training and many more will be training over the next few weeks.

Vaccines are being administered as they become available so we need to sequence vaccinations to protect those at highest risk of contracting the virus and those who are at higher risk of poor outcomes from COVID-19.

Here's a summary of what we know about how the rollout will work in Hawke's Bay under current conditions. This may change depending on what's happening in the community:

1. **Targeting border workers and their household contacts (underway now):** This involves immunising those most at risk of contracting the virus, such as border workers, our health workforce at highest risk of exposure, and then their household contacts. It should take about two to three weeks to vaccinate border workers.
2. **Second group (planning underway now):** In this phase, we will target our higher-risk frontline health workforce, which will include general practice and workers in aged residential care. We expect these vaccinations to start around March.



Pictured: Linda St George public health nurse and COVID educator was the first nurse in Hawke's Bay to receive the Pfizer/BioNtech COVID -19 vaccine.

3. **General public vaccinations to start in the second half of 2021** (planning also underway): This will start to target the general population and wider community.

We'll keep you posted as this important work continues. More information about the vaccine and roll-out can be found on the Government's [COVID-19 website](#) and the [Ministry of Health](#).

While the vaccine will help to protect us from COVID-19 and, over time, will be a big step towards us all leading more normal lives again, we still need to do our bit. Those of us that work in health need to do the things we are asking our community to do.



Cough or sneeze into your elbow →



Stay home if you're sick →



Keep track of where you've been →



Wash your hands →

## Get Home Safe: personal safety alarms for our community teams

It's great to see the rollout of personal safety alarms to our community-based teams as part of our ongoing commitment to staff safety.

*Get Home Safe*, the technology behind the safety button solution, allows staff to activate an alarm which is attached to their clothing at the push of a button. Some members of our community nursing team helped to trial the technology late last year and say they enjoyed the reassurance it provided.

At the beginning of a shift staff essentially activate a 'session' or time period of their shift. When they arrive at a location they can simply press the button once to check-in, which pin points their location on a map. However, if something goes wrong and they feel unsafe or need emergency support, they can activate an alarm which is picked up immediately by our 24/7 call centre team.

Most community nursing teams are now fitted with *Get Home Safe*, with our remaining community-based health professionals to receive the technology over the coming months. Those working in remote rural locations where mobile coverage is unavailable will also receive personal safety alarms once a compatible satellite device is trialled.



Pictured: District Nurses Kirsten Malcolm and Amy Andrew alongside Business Systems Analyst Rudi Lategan after returning home safely to base after a day of nursing out in our communities.

## Redevelopment projects update

A couple of months in, construction to upgrade Surgical Services is building momentum. The project is one of a number of planned investments to upgrade Hawke's Bay Hospital and support our teams to deliver high quality care in our community for years to come.

Below is a brief recap of the projects underway and where these are at.

Visit [hbdhbprojects.nz](http://hbdhbprojects.nz) for further information.

- 1. Surgical Expansion Project:** Stage one of our project to upgrade and expand surgical services is the first of the four strategic projects to get underway and is on track to be finished by the end of 2022. The upgrade will give Hawke's Bay an additional theatre to perform public surgeries and will help to improve patient experience as well as create a better working environment for our team. It also involves seismic upgrades to the theatre block to ensure it remains operational following an earthquake or natural disaster. We are working hard to minimise the noise and disruption and thank all of our teams and patients for their continued understanding as we complete this important work. Keep an eye on Our Hub for updates on how construction may impact you.



- 2. Radiology Refurbishment Project:** Construction work to refurbish our radiology department is due to start later this year and is scheduled for completion in 2023. This will support us to provide quality diagnostics and procedures for a range of conditions, including heart disease, diabetes and cancers. The refurbishment involves:

- Replacing vital equipment such as our MRI unit and our [fluoroscopy](#) unit, which we have already upgraded.
- Enhancing the environment and changes to the layout to improve flow, patient experience and the working environment for our team.
- Structural strengthening and seismic upgrades.



Pictured: Top – Renee Herbert - project support; Janya McLean - Theatre Manager; Mark Irwin - Specialist Anaesthetist; and Anna Harland - Perioperative Manager. Below - staff welcome the new fluoroscopy machine as part of the Radiology Refurbishment upgrade.

- 3. LINAC Build:** Following the [Government's announcement in 2019](#) that Hawke's Bay will receive a linear accelerator – a machine used to deliver radiation treatment to cancer patients – we have been working on the design of the specialist facility required to deliver this service and are finalising the business case to be presented to the Ministry of Health in the first half of the year.

4. **Other developments:** We are working on a number of other developments – such as expanding our specialist cardiology services – to support our teams to deliver high quality care in our community and improve the health wellbeing of Hawke’s Bay.

*We are committed to keeping our teams informed with news on each of these projects and other work underway to improve our facilities for staff. If you have any feedback or questions about any of these projects you can email [projects@hbdhb.govt.nz](mailto:projects@hbdhb.govt.nz)*

To all hospital staff, surgeons, nurses and district nurses who have been involved in my recent stay. You acted with so much professionalism during my stay in hospital especially during holiday time. Special thanks to all the surgeons involved from day one, using skills that shortened the procedure successfully. My wife and I have nothing but praise for all the help we have received.

2 weeks ago my husband needed to be taken back by ambulance to ED. ED was what I would describe as Code Red PLUS! However the staff at all levels were amazing! Their triaging was superb, never a harsh or impatient manner, along with kind words, empathy & ongoing assurance to all in the waiting room. Standing room only & I heard several staff indicating they would stay on at the end of their shifts to assist. We were there for nearly 12 hrs with assessment etc and we were blown away by the dedication & skills of the staff at all levels. Superb work!

The whole team here at Hawke’s Bay hospital on the stroke ward are incredible characters, so full of positivity and enthusiasm. Lots of humanity on display here.

## **Fabulous feedback**