

From: HSN Mailout
Sent: Thursday, 19 August 2021 4:50 p.m.
Subject: Covid Level 4 Update for Support Workers

Hello again everyone. We hope you are all coping with this latest wave of restrictions.

UPDATE THURSDAY 19th AUGUST 2021

**** Please continue working if you provide Essential Personal Cares to Clients ****

This includes necessary personal care like showering/bed sponges, toileting, medication support and meals.

It is essential that Support Workers wear masks, and apply Best Hygiene practices of handwashing before and after supporting all tasks (gloves on/off, Personal Care, meals, meds etc)

**** All non-essential care has been suspended ****

Reminder – all non-essential care has been suspended while we are in Alert Level 4. This includes just about all housework tasks, shopping, supervision, outings and community activities.

If you are unsure whether you should be going to your Clients just give us a ring in the office to confirm. No activities should be undertaken that aren't a high priority.

Be prepared for these same restrictions to apply in Alert Level 3 as well.

Covid Tracer App

You can manually log your whereabouts, when you go to a Client's address/home. Good to do this now, or scan available QR codes.

Bubbles

Please keep to limited bubbles and encourage others not to enter your bubble unnecessarily.

PPE

PPE is available from **Whangarei** Office (7am – 5pm) and **Kerikeri** Office (8am to 4pm).

Tomorrow (Friday) Fiona will be in **Mangonui** from 12noon to 1pm by the gravel pit just past the Fire Station on SH1, and **Kaitia** from 2pm – 3pm outside the People's Centre.

Also tomorrow (Friday) Kay will be back in **Russell** 11am to 11.45am by the Four Square, and in **Paihia** 12.15pm to 1pm in the main carpark by Countdown, and **Kawakawa** 1.30pm to 2.45pm by the Caltex. We may also have a **Kaikohe** distribution tomorrow – if so we will advise Kaikohe Support Workers separately.

Further details will be posted on our website as processes change

<https://www.homesupport.co.nz/page/covid-19> Offices are closed but staff will be there to provide you with your PPE.

Safety reminder - ask at the door before entering – is the Client well? If not, please phone the Office for further instructions.

DHBs recommend you undertake a STOP and WATCH for every visit, and escalate appropriately, as older people may have less typical symptoms.

DHBs also recommend that you ask has anyone in the household been in any of the sites of interest?

Remote Worker App users

If you still have a non-essential visit showing up on your app for today (we may not have gotten to all to suspend them in time) then please start the visit, load a note that the shift wasn't worked as it is non-essential, and finish the visit. You can then move on with any other Essential Care shifts.

Payments for non-worked shifts

We are still awaiting confirmation from our funders about payment of scheduled non-essential care, and advice about what Government-funded Covid-19 leave support will apply to Support Workers who cannot work.

Previous Update

Check our website if you want to read yesterday's update, which had more information about symptoms and testing .

COVID-19 Vaccinations

The vaccine rollout is intended to protect us all from COVID-19. Your having the vaccine will help to keep you, your family, your friends, your colleagues and our Clients safe.

As one of Northland's disability service providers, all our staff are NOW eligible for the vaccine. You can book using ***bookmyvaccine.nz***; when you get to the question ***Are you in Groups 1, 2, or 3*** tick yes in the box. You will then be able to book your vaccination. Alternatively, you can call ***0800 282 926*** and book over the phone.

In early July we told you about some funding that's been made available to reimburse Front-line Support Workers who have received their two COVID-19 vaccines. To be paid this funding, you need to complete the Claim Form we sent to you and return it to Payroll.

The Form and further information about the reimbursement is also available on our web-site and from our Offices if you are unable to print the Form at home.

We can't claim for individual Support Workers, we can only claim for you as a group. The final cut off date for us to claim this funding is the end of October 2021. This means that you will need to get your completed Form back to us by 9 a.m. on Tuesday 26th October 2021 please.

As per the MoH requirements, we will be retaining the vaccination information from the Vaccination Confirmation Form, on your employment record. **If you have had both Covid vaccinations**, we may disclose this information from time to time, to vulnerable Clients who request this information. If you **do not consent** to us to sharing this information with Clients, please let us know this when you return your form.

There's information about the Vaccine, Vaccinations and Links to Official websites on our website <https://www.homesupport.nz/page/covid-19>

Covid testing – this is available by calling your GP or medical centre. Northland health website has testing sites listed on their website: <https://www.northlanddhb.org.nz/home/covid-19/covid-19-northland-hub/northland-community-testing-centres/> . Please advise us if you or someone in your bubble has needed to be tested so we keep everyone safe.

Thank you for helping us to keep our Clients safe and supported during this time.

Stay safe and check back on our website for updates.

**The Management Team
Home Support North Charitable Trust**