

Dear Client/Client contact

This update is mostly for our Support Workers, but may be of interest to Clients and office staff too.

I'd like to start off with a lovely little message that I received from another business, a supplier of ours. It is touching and pretty well sums up how significantly this whole COVID thing is affecting all of us.

"It's been a wild few months (with some wild spring weather to accompany it!), but we're looking forward to something new as summer rolls around and we farewell the tumult of fickle spring. It certainly feels more hopeful now as the Vaccine, Vaccine, Vaccine recipe takes off! Now we eagerly look forward to businesses opening up, to families reuniting and for the zest for life to reignite our spirits. This is a hard fought battle, and while it's not over yet, we need to embrace this new hope, 'sun fuelled' energy and we must revitalise ourselves.

There has been deep and significant suffering in our community, in all sectors and age groups, in all socio-economic brackets: it is evident in the conversations we are having and the fatigue we see around us. We sincerely hope that while we look forward and recognise there will be more challenges ahead, this current 'despair' can be tempered by connection and community as we increasingly, and safely, return to some normalcy, bolstered by the vaccine and change of season."

OK, now to business.

- 1. Alert Level 2**
- 2. Vaccinations**
- 3. Training**
- 4. PPE**
- 5. Recruitment**
- 6. Client visits**

1. Alert Level 2

Thank goodness tomorrow marks a return to Alert Level 2. All non-essential care will be back in place from Wednesday the 20th of October, although you still need to be wearing your mask when with Clients, as well as following all the usual good hygiene practices. Any Clients continuing to isolate will be notified to you, and if you are a Support Worker with Guaranteed Hours we will endeavour to fill your gaps. Remember to contact us if you can't work for any reason. Please remember, under Alert Level 2 any payments for unworked non-essential hours will cease.

2. Vaccinations

Vaccination remains our strongest and most effective tool to protect against infection and disease, which is why the Government has made the difficult decision of requiring healthcare workers to be vaccinated against COVID-19. Under the proposed requirements all healthcare workers must receive their first dose of the vaccine by 30th October. If you have recently been vaccinated and haven't notified us then please contact EST.

3. Training

First Aid Training Update

Congratulations to all the people who completed the NZQA Level 2 St John Emergency First Aid Courses in Whangarei on the 3rd & 11th August and in Kerikeri on 6th October.

Unfortunately, the three other courses had to be postponed due to COVID-19 alert level restrictions.

The postponed courses that were due to be held on: Wednesday 1 September in Whangarei; Thursday 9 September in Kerikeri; and Tuesday 14 September in Kaitaia, are to be re-arranged, but dates have not yet been set. We will let you know when they will run.

If you were on one of the cancelled courses and no longer wish to do it, please let us know.

We are likely to have some spare places, so if you are interested in attending, let us know. The three courses to be re-arranged will be in Whangarei, Kerikeri and Kaitaia.

Manual Handling, Medication and formal qualifications trainings

These can take place as a gathering of no more than 100 people.

Physical distancing should be maintained to 1 metre where possible, and a face mask is strongly encouraged. QR codes and hygiene standard practices to be applied.

4. PPE

Guidelines for Level 2 are attached

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) supplies will continue to be available with weekly allocation and delivery to Paihia/Russell/Kawakawa/Kaikohe/Coopers Beach/Kaitaia.

Mid North times/Area: Russell: 9.30am to 10.15 am - outside 4 Square

(Every Thursday)

Paihia: 10.45am to 11.30am - in main carpark, opposite 4 Square

Kawakawa: 12noon to 12.30pm - by Caltex

Kaikohe: 1.15pm to 2pm - under the Big tree, Broadway Health

Kaitaia:

Tuesday 26th Oct 12 noon – 1pm (non-pay week)

Monday 1st Nov 11am – 12noon (Pay week)

Coopers Beach:

Tuesday 26th Oct 2pm – 3pm (non-pay week)

Monday 1st Nov 1pm – 2pm (Pay week)

*Whangarei office & Kerikeri office are collection points as usual.

5. Recruitment

Interviews face to face can be conducted with same guidelines as training, however a mask should be worn by both parties if in a small room.

6. Client visits

It is still a requirement, for Client visits to be recorded manually on the Covid APP by Support Workers for tracing purposes of any risk investigation.

Thank you everyone for holding the line and applying all the MoH guidelines J

Keep well,

Leanne

Chief Executive

Home Support North Charitable Trust