

The Covid vaccine will be in our fridge for the 21/7/21.

Patients are invited to consider these requests as we commence vaccination for the remainder of the year.

1. Book in for the Covid vaccine when it is your turn using ManageMyHealth.
2. Is your health need other than vaccination urgent that day or can wait a day or two?
3. Please understand we are maximising our effort for the next few months. Be kind to each other.
4. ManageMyHealth emails are to stop today and pause until after Covid vaccinations are completed as we are short-staffed and the volume of use is not sustainable. MMH Prescriptions continue as normal.

Finally our team can start Covid vaccination for our patients. This is an unprecedented Public Health challenge in NZ and the biggest challenge to date has been getting enough vaccine to NZ.

Pfizer has imposed many conditions over vaccine handling which respect the fragile nature of this novel vaccine. The Ministry of Health has imposed on us extensive staff training and accreditation of each Practice. The local PHO has hosted many meetings, hosted visits to vaccination centres and approved our plan. The level of scrutiny is unprecedented.

The next challenge is for everyone to remain patient whilst all New Zealanders over the age of 16 receive two vaccinations 21 days apart. The first group are the elderly, the immunocompromised and those most vulnerable to severe infection. The general population will follow thereafter.

Separate to Covid vaccination it is important that unwell Patients can still receive care at Courtenay Medical whilst we vaccinate everyone in our population. My main concern is ensuring it is safe and sustainable for staff and patients at Courtenay Medical.

Our team wishes to maximise our contribution toward the vaccination effort, just as we have done with Covid swabbing to this point. We all want to do this as quickly as possible. We still remain skeptical about vaccine supply in the coming months.

Our entire plan hinges on how those patients who are not being vaccinated on that day respond to our plan. Please read below so you understand the size of our challenge.

The Plan

Two days per week every week our space will turn into a Covid vaccination centre between 9-4.30 by appointment only. We will vaccinate around 2400 people over the first six weeks in our first tranche, which is 400 per day, 800 per week and 2400 for the first three week cycle. That tranche will then return for their second injections over the subsequent three weeks.

We expect to repeat this cycle and complete our patient population within the next three months. We will review our plan as we proceed. We are prepared to reduce the hours of vaccination if it is not sustainable for everyone. We are also prepared to work on at least one weekend day per month if demand is too great.

Please remember if the wait is too distressing you are welcome to get vaccinated elsewhere as we expect Pharmacies and other Pop up centres to commence vaccination.

To look after "business as usual General Practice" we will have one receptionist, one nurse and one doctor taking emergency and urgent calls and appointments on the days we vaccinate. The rest of the team will need to be involved in the vaccination process.

Routine non urgent General Practice will reduce to three days per week with more Doctor sessions on those days.

Henry Ford once said

Coming together is a beginning

Staying together is progress

Working together is success.

On the day of vaccination please be on time, not late or ages ahead of time as you will be welcomed by our 'assembly line" of sorts, so we can get you in and out safely and efficiently and follow the rules set by others and get everyone vaccinated as soon as possible.

The assembly line invented by Henry Ford to produce the Model A Ford apparently took it down from 12 hours to 1 hour 33 minutes to assemble. We anticipate you will be in and out in less than 30 minutes which includes the mandatory 20 minutes wait. Sorry, no free car!

Kind regards

Dave Pickett
Director Courtenay Medical

