

24th September 2021



Dear 

Official Information Act Request for – Admittance Protocol Covid-19

I write in response to your Official Information Act request received by us 30th August 2021, you requested the following information:

- **Please could you advise your admittance protocol on receipt of Covid 19 patients?**

On the 3rd September 2021 we contacted you to ask you to clarify exactly which admittance protocol you were requesting. On the 3rd September 2021 you responded advising:

- **“When your hospital receives a patient with suspected Covid-19 (testing positive) then you will have a Standard Operational Procedure (SOP or protocol) to carry out, such as blood tests, and initial medication etc. The patient could have come from an MIQ facility but also could have been referred from some other facility. This SOP should be for all such patients?”**

Counties Manukau Health Response:

For context Counties Manukau Health (CM Health) employs over 8,500 staff and provides health and support services to people living in the Counties Manukau region (approx. 601,490 people). We see over 118,000 people in our Emergency Department each year, and over 2,000 visitors come through Middlemore Hospital daily.

The Northern Region DHBs are working together on a coordinated response to COVID-19, through the Northern Region Health Coordination Centre (NRHCC), drawing on resources and expertise from across the four DHB areas (Northland, Waitematā, Auckland and Counties Manukau). The Northern Region has continued to monitor the COVID-19 situation closely and coordinate our response in conjunction with Auckland Regional Public Health (ARPHS) and the Ministry of Health (MoH). We are prepared to manage patients suspected of, or with coronavirus in our region.

CM Health and NRHCC response fully aligns with World Health Organization (WHO) and MoH requirements for the management of COVID-19. The NRHCC convened (with a metro-DHB membership) includes a Clinical Technical Advisory Group (cTAG).

Working with this cTAG, CM Health has well developed protocols for managing cases of any infectious disease. As with many other respiratory infections, any suspected or confirmed coronavirus cases admitted to CM Health will be managed with appropriate precautions in line with the latest recommendations from MoH & WHO.

In relation to the clinical treatment of a patient admitted with COVID-19, we treat every Emergency Department patient according to the symptoms they present with and have an individual care plan for each patient.

CM Health follows guidance from the Ministry of Health as per the publicly available information at the below links. This guideline covers patient severity, investigations, respiratory support, medication management and discharge planning for the clinical management of COVID-19 hospitalised adults.

- <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-information-health-professionals/covid-19-advice-all-health-professionals#adult-management>
- https://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/pages/interim_guidance_-_clinical_management_of_covid-19_in_hospitalised_adults.pdf

I trust this information answers your request. You are entitled to seek a review of the response by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or Freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response or an edited version of this may be published on the Counties Manukau Health website. If you consider there are good reasons why this response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider this.

Yours sincerely



Fepulea'i Margie Apa
Chief Executive Officer
Counties Manukau Health