

All District Health Boards

COVID-19 National Hospital Response Framework

COVID-19 Hospital Readiness

GREEN ALERT

Alert level 1

Trigger Status: No COVID-19 positive patients in your hospital; no cases in your community; managing service delivery as usual with only staffing and facility impact being for training & readiness purposes

- Screen for COVID-19 symptoms & travel history for any new Emergency Department attendances, pre-op sessions, planned admission, or clinic attendance
- Plan for triage physically outside the Emergency Department (or outside the hospital building)
- Plan to have a separated stream for COVID-19 suspected cases and non COVID-19 cases in Emergency Department
- Undertake training and practice runs for management of a COVID-19 suspected case in the Emergency Department, Wards, Theatres, ICU/HDU
- Practice PPE use for COVID-19 care in the Emergency Department, wards, theatres, ICU/HDU, outpatients, other relevant settings
- Plan for isolation of a single case & multiple case/ cohorting
- Plan for Early Supported Discharge, aggressive discharge and step down arrangements, including with other partners as appropriate (e.g. private, aged residential care, community providers)
- Plan for separate streams for staffing, cleaning, supplies management and catering
- Plan for management of referrals, and increased workload on booking and Call Centre teams
- Plan to have a COVID-19 capable theatre for acute surgery for a known or suspected positive patient
- Plan and prepare a dedicated COVID-19 ward
- Engage with alternative providers (such as private) to confirm arrangements for their assistance during higher escalation levels, and to fast-track urgent, lower complexity care procedures such as cataracts, endoscopy etc.
- Arrange for outpatient activity to move to telehealth and phone screening for virtual assessment, and MDTs to videoconference wherever possible
- Planned Care surgery, acute surgery, urgent elective and non-deferrable surgery to operate as usual
- Review patients on waiting list (surgery, day case, other interventions) and group patients by urgency

COVID-19 Hospital Initial Impact

YELLOW ALERT

Alert level 2

Trigger Status: One or more COVID-19 positive patients in your hospital; cases quarantined in your community; isolation capacity and ICU capacity manageable; some staff absence and some staff redeployment to support response

- Continue screening for COVID-19 symptoms and travel history as per Green Alert
- Activate plans as described in Hospital Green Alert, as appropriate
- Activate Emergency Department triaging in a physically separate setting
- Activate streaming of suspected COVID-19 or COVID -19 positive and non-positive patients as planned across Emergency Department, Wards, Theatres, ICU/HDU, and have dedicated COVID-19 capable theatre available
- Activate Early Supported Discharge, aggressive discharge and step down arrangements, including with other partners as appropriate (e.g. private, aged residential care, community providers)
- DHBs to ensure appropriately discharged out of area patients back to domicile hospital or other setting (to be considered in conjunction with current Hospital Alert Level at other DHBs)
- Acute surgery, urgent elective, and non-deferrable surgery to operate as usual, with consideration given to repatriation processes if patient is non-domicile
- Start to move pre-op assessments and outpatient appointments to be undertaken virtually, or in an off-site setting as necessary
- Defer non-urgent pre-assessments and non-urgent clinic patients unless can continue to be managed
- Activate any outsourcing arrangements reached, and engage on options for supporting 'cold trauma' cases and less-complex urgent cancer surgery
- Planned Care surgery and other interventions to be prioritised based on urgency, and where ICU/HDU is not required, delivery should continue as much as possible
- Redeployment of staff as needed/ available to ensure perioperative workforces are in place to run theatre including anaesthesia, anaesthetic technicians, nursing. Scale deliverable of non-urgent planned care as needed