

WellSouth Update

07 February 2023

In this issue:

- Access and Choice Promotion
 - Comirnaty 3mcg 6 months - 4 years vaccination rollout
 - Referrals to WellSouth Outreach Service
 - Practice Manager Forums
 - Training Highlight: Advance Care Planning
 - Workforce Development and Training
 - Upcoming Webinars
 - GPNZ Pānui
-

Access and Choice Promotion

WellSouth's Access and Choice team has recently launched an exciting campaign to promote their service in the local community.

Our Health Improvement Practitioners are aiming to make more people aware there is free mental health and well-being support available in many general practices, with their new promotional campaign.

To further promote the service, which has already helped thousands across Otago and Southland, Access and Choice (Tōku Oranga) team are branching out and distributing posters across the community – from supermarkets to hairdressers, dairies to sports centres.

“We are aiming to normalise seeking support for any area of life and health and have hope our communities will have access to support much sooner,” says Courtney McLennan, Health Improvement Practitioner.

Read the full news release [here](#).



WellSouth Health Improvement Practitioner Courtney McLennan hangs Access and Choice poster at local hairdresser.

Comirnaty 3mcg 6 months - 4 years vaccination rollout

Message on behalf of Te Whatu Ora - Southern COVID-19 Vaccination Programme

Dear colleagues,

Please share the below information on the rollout of the Comirnaty 3mcg 6months-4years vaccine with your colleagues and staff.

In December 2022 Ministers approved use of the paediatric Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for children aged six months to four years who are at higher risk of severe disease if they were to catch COVID-19. We are pleased to confirm that **the vaccine will be available from Thursday 9 February** at nominated vaccination clinics.

Eligibility will be limited to children who are severely immunocompromised, or who have complex and/or multiple health conditions which increase the risk of severe disease from COVID-19 (following the [Starship Child Health table of underlying comorbidities](#)).

From Thursday 9 February, those with eligible pēpi and tamariki will be able to book appointments through [Book My Vaccine](#) or by calling Healthline on 0800 28 29 26.

If you're not directly offering the vaccine, you still have a critical role to play

The National Immunisation Programme has worked closely with the Districts to identify the specific sites that will be offering the vaccine. In Southern, these will be located in Dunedin, Invercargill, Cromwell, Queenstown and Oamaru.

However, it is possible that eligible children may also present in a variety of other health settings including GPs, pharmacies, Emergency Departments, paediatric departments, oncology departments, children's wards, respiratory outpatients, and beyond.

If your teams do encounter parents or guardians who are enquiring about the vaccine for their eligible children, you can quickly identify the nearest vaccination site for them by visiting [Book My Vaccine](#) or calling Healthline on 0800 28 29 26.

If they are unable to access a vaccination clinic (due to disability, a health condition or other reason) please support them to fill out [this form](#) or call **03 476 9977** and we'll be in touch to work through a solution. (Note: this form will be updated on **9 February** once infant bookings are available)

We will soon be providing resources to support you in conversations with whānau about the vaccination for this age group.

Key messages

- A version of the paediatric Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine is now available for children aged six months to four years who are at higher risk of severe disease if they were to catch COVID-19.
- Eligible children include those who are severely immunocompromised, or who have complex and/or multiple health conditions which increase the risk of severe COVID-19 as detailed in the [Starship table of underlying comorbidities](#)
- Parents and guardians of eligible children will be able to book a vaccine by calling Healthline on 0800 28 29 26 or visiting www.BookMyVaccine.nz
- Children aged 6 months to 4 years who are not in these risk categories have a very low likelihood of severe illness from COVID-19 infection and do not need the vaccine (and are not therefore eligible to receive it).

Supporting messages

- The vaccine contains a lower dose of mRNA that has been specially formulated for this age group.
- The vaccine is a three-dose course. The second dose is given 3 weeks after the first dose followed by a third dose at least 8 weeks after the second dose.
- This paediatric Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for children aged six months to four years was provisionally approved by Medsafe, New Zealand's regulatory authority, on 1 December 2022. Medsafe provides independent advice to the Ministry of Health. They follow a robust approval process to ensure vaccines meet acceptable standards for quality and that the benefits outweigh any risks. Medsafe only approves a vaccine or medicine for use in New Zealand once it is satisfied that it is of acceptable quality, efficacy and safety.
- Following Medsafe approval, the COVID-19 Vaccine Technical Advisory Group (CV-TAG) recommended to the Ministry of Health that the vaccine be approved for use in children who are severely immunocompromised, or who have complex and/or multiple health conditions which increase the risk of severe disease from COVID-19. This was approved on 12 December 2022.
- The Ministry of Health's COVID-19 Vaccine Technical Advisory Group will continue to review new information on COVID-19 and COVID-19 vaccines and will make further recommendations if necessary.

For more information about vaccine eligibility; safety and effectiveness; the three-dose schedule; and other aspects of the vaccine rollout, please find a recording of a recent IMAC webinar [here](#).

Your sincerely,

Te Whatu Ora – Southern COVID-19 Vaccination Programme

[Referrals to WellSouth Outreach Service](#)

WellSouth's Outreach Service provides support to patients, whānau and general practices across the Southern region.

Unfortunately, due to vacancies within the team we currently do not have the capacity to accept new referrals to the service.

We will be in touch in the near future with alternative contacts and suggestions for referral pathways.

Practice Manager Forums

Practice Manager Forums are coming up next month.

You can register online for the Oamaru, Dunedin, Cromwell, and Invercargill forums being held in **March**.

Register here: <https://training.wellsouth.nz/events/675-practice-manager-forum/>

Cromwell - 7 March 2023

Oamaru - 13 March 2023

Dunedin - 14 March 2023

Invercargill - 15 March 2023

The meetings run for two hours and the agenda is still to be confirmed.

If you have any questions please contact practicenetwork@wellsouth.org.nz

Training Highlight: Advance Care Planning - Starting March 2023

Are you passionate about advance care planning (ACP)?

We are looking for health professionals who want to:

- help grow the use of ACP
- learn how to translate an individual's wishes into written documentation for ACP
- gain experience in supporting patients with ACP

After a year of having to cancel trainings in 2022, Viv Williams is excited to bring Advance Care Planning workshops back to the Southern Region in **March 2023**.

For more information, dates, and locations or to register please go to the following link:

<https://training.wellsouth.nz/events/577-advance-care-planning/>

Workforce Development and Training

Please review our upcoming Training and Education courses.

For course dates and registration please click [here](#).

Upcoming training:

- Advance Care Planning
- ACC GPMRI Referral Training
- Gout Update

Upcoming Webinars:

Te Whatu Ora: COVID-19 Care in the Community - Updated Model of Care

Date and time: **7.00pm - 7.45pm, Wednesday 8 February 2023**

The webinar will be held via **Zoom**, register [here](#).

Topics include:

- Overview – new model of care for COVID-19
- New funding guidance – who is funded and who is not
- Clinical pathways updates
- Pharmacy guidance
- The session is targeted at Primary Care Clinicians (GPs and Urgent Care), Practice Managers, Pharmacists and any others who deal with funding and clinical management of COVID-19 in the community.

Full webinar details and speakers can be found [here](#).

Any questions, email COVIDcareinthecomunity@health.govt.nz

Te Whatu Ora Virtual Hui - Building the future of health

Date and time: **11.15am - 12pm Wednesday 8 February 2023**

Register here: <https://myevents.nz/HealthNZ/buildingthefutureofhealth1/index.bsp>

About this hui:

We are delighted to invite you to our next stakeholder hui with the Te Aka Whai Ora Chief Executive Riana Manuel and Te Whatu Ora Chief Executive Margie Apa, with special guest Abbe Anderson, National Commissioner.

We welcome your questions and feedback. You will have the opportunity to post questions via the event link and there will be a focused question and answer session in the second half of the hui. After the event we will send out a short survey so you can provide feedback and let us know what you'd like more of in future hui.

We hope you can join us, but if you can't we will share a recording of this hui on the stakeholder pages of the [Te Aka Whai Ora](#) and [Te Whatu Ora](#) websites.

Effective Smokefree Conversations Webinar

Date and Time: **6.30pm - 8.00pm, Wednesday 22 February 2023**

The webinar will be held via **Zoom**, register [here](#)

Learning Objectives:

Dr John McMenamin will discuss strategies to help you enquire, engage and motivate your patients, including:

- how to have more effective Smokefree conversations
- understanding vaping – preventing uptake amongst youth and non-smokers as well as vaping's role in smoking cessation
- local Smokefree and Vapefree services and resources.

The session includes time for Q&A

Full webinar details can be found [here](#).

GPNZ Pānui - February 2, 2023



Read the latest news from GPNZ here - [GPNZ Pānui February 2 2023](#)

In this edition:

- Message from the Chair
- Meet our new Executive members
- GPNZ's 2023 membership meeting
- COVID-19 Care in the Community changes
- Development of new health strategies
- Workforce survey - final week
- Congratulations to the new regional wayfinders

About this newsletter

WellSouth Update is a regular e-newsletter for general practice teams, community pharmacy and other providers in Southland and Otago.

To subscribe or to provide feedback or submissions, please email communications@wellsouth.org.nz Thank you.



Copyright © |2022| *|WellSouth|*, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

communications@wellsouth.org.nz

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

|IF:REWARDS| *|HTML:REWARDS|* *|END:IF|*

