

Welcome to the New Zealand Rural General Practice Network e-zine for 17 April 2020



In this issue: Professor calls for more transparency in reporting of rural Covid-19 statistics • Coronavirus: Early exit from Covid-19 lockdown off the table for island dwellers • Coronavirus: With sport gone, isolation expands for rural communities • Big queues for flu vaccine much more...



Angel Flight NZ is a charity funded by Rotary, Private and Corporate donations.



New Zealand Office Supplies is the preferred supplier to the New Zealand Rural General Practice Network. Take advantage of Network practice member benefits with New Zealand Office Supplies.



The Network's health promotion partner.

Covid-19: Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern announces details for alert level 3

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern has announced what life and business activity might look like under alert level 3. (RNZ) Watch the PM giving the details [here](#).

Professor calls for more transparency in reporting of rural Covid-19 statistics

A public health professor says releasing Covid-19 testing and infection statistics by local authorities, rather than by district health boards, would be beneficial to rural communities. (TV1 Breakfast)

[Read more.](#)

Also listen to Garry Nixon on COVID testing, RNZ April 14, from the 2m 45sec mark: Follow the [Link](#).

Coronavirus: Early exit from Covid-19 lockdown off the table for island dwellers

An early release from lockdown for New Zealand's most remote and sparsely populated islands appears unlikely, despite being free of coronavirus. (Stuff)

[Read more.](#)

Coronavirus: With sport gone, isolation expands for rural communities

On a typical Saturday, after a big win by the senior team, the Gladstone Sports Complex in rural Wairarapa teems with people. (Stuff) They're laughing and celebrating and "having a couple of beers". It's a hub of the local community.

[Read more.](#)

Big queues for flu vaccine

A Mosgiel doctor says the "crazy" reaction to the arrival of a batch of flu vaccines at his medical centre recently showed how anxious people were about Covid-19. (ODT) Supplies of the flu vaccine had been in short supply across the country since the first batches were distributed. Subsequent dispatches had been snapped up and many people and GPs were crying out for more.

[Read more.](#)

District Health Board regulates flu vaccine supply on West Coast

West Coast District Health Board is taking a hand in the ordering of influenza vaccine around the region in an effort to improve supplies. (RNZ) The Ministry of Health says there is a good supply of the vaccine around the country and has been urging people eligible for free shots to get in early this year, to reduce potential pressure on hospitals during the Covid-19 epidemic.

[Read more.](#)

Coronavirus - a stimulus to healthcare innovation

OPINION: If there is a silver lining to this grim Covid-19 pandemic it is that our health system has responded magnificently to the challenge and, in so doing, has had to adopt new ways of working, many of which have been long advocated and which we should now embed. (Stuff)

[Read more.](#)

Coronavirus: New app connects doctors and patients from comfort of their own 'bubble'

What's billed as New Zealand's first app-based GP consultation and prescription service has been launched to support patients through the [coronavirus](#) lockdown. (Stuff) [Well Revolution](#) is said to allow doctors and patients to stay connected from the comfort of their own "bubbles".

[Read more.](#)

Kiwi nurse 'touched' by support

Although she does not have time to be interviewed, "Nurse Jenny" McGee, of Invercargill, has been moved by the messages she has received from New Zealanders. (ODT) Ms McGee made headlines earlier this week when British Prime Minister Boris Johnson publicly announced his thanks to NHS staff at St Thomas' Hospital in London where he had been cared for after contracting Covid-19.

[Read more.](#)

NZ Doctor stories – log-in required

Great Barrier aims to become a COVID-19-free haven

Resilience, experience and preparation give Great Barrier Island a good chance of remaining COVID-19 free, says Aotea Health co-founder Adele Robertson. The rural nurse specialist and midwife says residents are accustomed to stockpiling food and understand the need to self-isolate to protect their older neighbours. About a quarter of the island's normal population of about 850 are aged over 65.

[Read more](#)

Links

- Ministry of Health online bulletins, click [here](#).
- The Ministry of Health website has a dedicated COVID-19 [website](#).
- The Royal New Zealand College of GPs has dedicated resources on their [website](#).
- ACC provider updates COVID-19 click [here](#).
- Leaning on Fence Posts, Otago University rural research blog, click [here](#).
- Health Workforce New Zealand stakeholder bulletin, click [here](#).
- Mobile Health news, click [here](#).
- Medline (USA rural health) click [here](#).
- Death Documents Project (Ministry of Health), click [here](#).
- Health Promotion Agency (HPA) SunSmart campaign, [Click here](#)
- Health Quality & Safety Commission Implicit Bias (resource video), [click here](#).

New patient resources for skin cancer

Most skin cancers are preventable. And if detected early, most can be successfully treated.

The resources can help you promote early detection to your patients

To order go to [SunSmart.org.nz](#)



Not a member? Join the Network!

The Network is the only nationwide membership-based organisation in New Zealand representing the interests of rural general practice.

Visit our [website](#) for additional information and an online application form or contact Rob Olsen on 021 472 556.



Testimonial

"NZLocums has been instrumental in allowing me to fulfill my dream of relocating to New Zealand and working as a GP here. They offered me guidance from the earliest stages till the Orientation before starting work. I had a specific contact in NZLocums who helped at every stage and was very responsive to any queries I had. The Orientation material and programme were invaluable in getting me familiar with the workings of the NZ health system. I cannot thank them enough."

Dr Nicole Yuen, Singapore



Open your New Zealand bank account

The Network's official banking partner.

TELL US YOUR STORY

We are looking for health sector-related stories from around rural New Zealand. People, places, achievements and challenges. If you have a good yarn to tell contact Network communications manager Rob Olsen, email rob@rgpn.org.nz or 021 472 556.