

Blog: 5/12/2021

Well life is getting back to normal, the new normal that is. Masks handy to grab getting out of the car, phone ready to sign into the location on the covid app, and now standing with the QR code ready to be let onto the hospital or gym premises....

It's quite amazing how we all adapt. I have been out and about this weekend doing long delayed business that needed being done in person, ignoring the 100-odd new cases of covid a day [and mainly in Auckland] when 15 months ago a few cases a day had me scurrying for home, limiting visits to the supermarket to fortnightly or less, and going nowhere other than work. We are adapting, and learning to live with it. My confidence is helped by being fully vaccinated and I have even had my booster since I was more than 6 months after my second jab. It was done at the surgery last Thursday as there was one left over and we did not want to waste it.

Currently we are vaccinating only on Fridays unless you can organise a group of 6 or 7 as that's how many doses that there are in one phial. If you are due your booster and want it done with us, just ring the receptionists and Ana and Anjana will book you in so there are no long queues to stand in, especially in this hot sun or small unventilated rooms to wait in.

We are proud to report that our one small surgery has done over 6500 vaccinations for covid so far. Our practice is now 94% double vaccinated and this figure will rise further as there are still a number who have only had one vaccination. This is why we are only doing one vaccination clinic a week.

At present under the new traffic light system under Red and even Orange we will continue to limit contact with telephone pre-screening, carpark consults and very limited numbers actually seen in the surgery. The good news is our telephone consults are our cheapest consults, even when they might take a couple of call-backs and pics. It's all about keeping our vulnerable patients safe. We will continue to see and care for our unvaccinated patients without prejudice. Our protocols around seeing them may be different and I certainly will be in PPE gear if we still have covid circulating in the community so that I'm not in a position of being responsible for passing covid on to a vulnerable patient, but the standard of care will be the best we can provide like we aim for all our patients.

I strongly defend the right of all Kiwis to access our Healthcare system on equal terms, and that includes drunk or speeding drivers, those injured while not wearing seat belts, smokers with small or large cell lung cancer. Where does a different line get drawn? What about people who enjoy more risky sports for injury like paragliding, skiing or rugby? As far as we at Tiakina Te Ora are concerned - all are entitled to free hospital health care, and whatever benefits are available in community care too, without prejudice.

Christmas will be different again this year. The surgery will be open between Christmas and New Year Wednesday 29th, Thursday 30th and Friday 31st and similarly in those similar three days after New Year, 5th-7th inclusive.

While we only have one doctor on, and one nurse and am not available for routine matters like cervical smears and surgery [unless urgent], we are there from 8am. However if we have gone quiet and no-one seems to want us, please don't be surprised if we have left anytime from 4.00pm on. Ring first if it's that time to check we are still available. Counties and Takanini Care and Pukekohe A&E 's are open but we know our patients prefer to come and see us if possible.

I hope everyone has a good Christmas and we all move on into a better New Year,

From us all at Tiakina Te Ora, Drs Jacqueline, Mick, and Cathy and our lovely Registrar Hazel , plus the nurses Paulette and Angie, Practice Manager Meriana, and Ana, Anjana and Jane on the front desk. And not forgetting those in the background who have helped out through the years, nurses Eden, Barb, Kathy and Jools vaccinating, Rachel and Wendy checking patients through, and our housekeeper Bronson and his partner Nikita who despite working day jobs themselves, have kept our surgery beautifully clean.