

Health & Wellbeing for Learning Pānui

2021 Term 3 newsletter from the Child Health Team



CHILD HEALTH TEAM

Rōpū Hauora Tamariki

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)

Chief Medical and Dental Officer Robin Whyman said there had been a continued and steady increase of children and adults with RSV needing hospital care over the past week, and the district health board expected to see that continue for at least another week.

Staffing of the hospital continued to be impacted and the district health board was calling in all casual staff to support the busy wards and acute areas, Dr Whyman said.

“It’s very important that parents and caregivers keep children warm and at home and away from other children if they are sick. Children who had younger siblings or babies at home should be kept away from early childcare centres and kōhanga reo, where possible.

“The hand-washing, self-isolation and social distancing families followed so well during last year’s COVID-19 lockdown are a good guide to the care we need to control this RSV outbreak,” he said.

Signs of when to seek medical attention urgently in children:

- Audible wheezing sounds
- Breathing very fast
- Laboured breathing — the ribs seem to suck inward when the child breathes in
- Seems very unwell
- Sluggish or lethargic.

- If you are concerned about your baby seek advice from your GP or call Healthline for free health advice on 0800 611 116 - anytime 24/7.
- If it’s an emergency – call 111.

19 July 2021 (1200)

Due to RSV (respiratory syncytial virus)

Some of our areas currently have a no-visitor policy

To protect our tamariki Hawke's Bay Hospital has further restricted its visiting policy, as we have a number of adults and children in hospital with RSV.

Children under 16 will not be able to visit, unless there is a clear medical need or exceptional circumstance.

Please **do not** visit wards if you have had fever, cough, sore throat, or runny nose in the past 24 hours.

No visitors are allowed in:

- Special Care Baby Unit (SCBU)
- Ata Rangī (maternity birthing unit, Hawke's Bay Hospital)
- Waioha (primary birthing unit, Hawke's Bay Hospital)
- Wairoa maternity ward
- Children's ward, Hawke's Bay Hospital
- Ward A1

Exception: parents/guardians can support a child in hospital.

Emergency department is limited to 1 support person per patient.

Intensive Care Unit (ICU) visiting is limited to 2 visitors per patient, once a day only.

- Visitors to any area of our facilities may be asked to wear a mask or other protective wear.
- The decision about whether exceptional circumstances apply is at the Charge Nurse Manager's or another lead clinician's discretion.

