



Seasonal Influenza

With the weather cooling our thoughts are now focused on planning for our seasonal flu vaccination campaign.

From the 14th April the general practice is allowed to start vaccinating adults over 65 years of age. This group is first off the line with those under 65 years of age and others with registered long term chronic conditions eligible from the following week.

Last year we ran a drive through clinic from the car park of the Cross Recreation Centre and due to its success and popularity we will be doing the same again this year.

The actual dates and who can attend when will be advertised nearer the time.

If you prefer not to attend the drive in clinic, you can still receive your flu jab at our clinic by making an appointment with a practice nurse.

Covid-19

As little as 12 months ago, few people in the world knew much about the now dreaded coronavirus. Today there are few people in the world whose life has not been affected by it.

Planning is underway at both a national and local level for the roll out to the general population of the Covid-19 vaccination programme. Every person 16 years and over will be eligible for a free vaccine. High risk groups will get underway first with a plan to reach 2 million people over the next 3-4 months. CHF will be playing its part in this vaccination campaign and we will be keeping you up to date on the planning. For members of the general public the campaign is expected to get underway in the second half of this year.

Accessing GP Care

If you need access to health care during normal business hours, please contact us via phone to book an appointment, or utilise the Patient Portal to book your appointment. Please do not email. For your convenience our practice is open Monday to Friday, 8.30am—6pm, and until 9pm by pre arranged appointment only.

If you are not yet enrolled in the portal, at your next appointment, please ask us how.

After Hours: Phone your own GP practice, or phone us on 4190500 and follow the prompts to speak to the Doctor on call. Your call will be triaged by the national triage service who will assist and direct you to receive the medical care needed.

Healthline: Is available free for health advice and information 24 hours a day —phone 0800 611 116.

In an Emergency: Always dial 111.

Social Work Services at CHF

Were you aware that CHF offer Social Work services for patients residing in the entire Clutha District?

Our Medical Social Worker works in partnership with patients to provide services such as:

- Support to family/individuals in hospital and within the entire Clutha District area who require assistance to deal with health or disability issues;
- Information on local and regional health services;
- Assistance with information on disability allowances, funded and unfunded services and Work and Income NZ benefits;
- Support and advice on access to community services that support normal functions of daily life;
- Family violence co-ordination, information and support services for victims of abuse.

If you, a relative or friend could benefit from this service, ask your GP to refer you, or make contact with our Social Worker on 4190523. Social Work services are free of charge for patients accepted to the service.



3 year Certification Awarded for Inpatient and Maternity Services

In December 2020, Clutha Health First underwent our HealthCERT re-certification audit as required by the Ministry of Health under the Health and Disability Services (Safety) Act 2001 for our Inpatient and Maternity services. This audit ensures all hospitals in NZ provide safe and quality care for all patients who access the services.

In January 2021, we were very pleased to receive the report from our audit advising we were awarded a three year accreditation.

The community can feel confident that when accessing care from Clutha Health First it is safe and of a high standard. We will undergo this certification again in early 2024.

Access Health Information & Resources Online

Do you have a medical condition you want more information on? If you are looking for reliable and trustworthy health information and self-care resources, simply visit the Health Navigator website at www.healthnavigator.co.nz.

This site provides a single place for New Zealanders to find any information needed on health conditions. Feel confident accessing information from this site.

New Doctors for General Practice and Inpatient Ward

Dr Voon

Registrar — General Practice

For patients visiting the general practice a number of you may have already been seen by Dr Voon who recently joined us at CHF for six months as part of his GP training programme. An experienced doctor already, Voon decided that a career in general practice is for him—and we are pleased to have Voon with us at the General Practice in his new career choice.



Dr Raphael Escovar

Medical Officer—Inpatient Ward

We are delighted to welcome Dr Raphael Escovar as our new permanent full time Medical Officer. Raphael has joined us last month from Texas, USA where he has been working in rural hospitals for many years. His experience as a physician working in rural communities brings great value to our community. Already he is enjoying the hospitality of the township and both he and his family report they are settling into the community nicely.

