

Kia ora koutou,

A huge thank you for your efforts to ensure cancer patients were well cared for during the initial wave of COVID-19. Cancer treatment services were well maintained during the lockdown, which is a testament to you all.

However, we know that there was a decrease in new cancer diagnoses following lockdown with disruptions to diagnostic services, that have required ongoing work to catch up. Te Aho o Te Kahu will continue to work with the cancer sector across New Zealand to ensure people continue to have access to care during this challenging time.

We have reviewed and reissued the [COVID guidance](#) that we produced and shared with you when it first hit.

- The guidance aligns with the National Hospital Response Framework, with a focus on ensuring there is a consistent approach to cancer care during the pandemic.
- The guidance sets out the nationally agreed expectations around the ongoing provision of cancer services at different [hospital alert levels](#)
- Equity is a key driver for the standardisation of care within these guidelines, as we know disruptions to care disproportionately impact Māori and Pacific peoples
- We have attached the guidance on:
 - [Blood and Cancer Services](#) (medical oncology, radiation oncology and haematology)
 - [Cancer Surgery](#),
 - [Cancer Imaging](#), and
 - [Gastrointestinal Endoscopy](#) (noting that this is wider than cancer)

Please forward this on to clinical leaders and managers within your DHB

He waka eke noa,

Diana Sarfati
Chief Executive
Te Aho o Te Kahu