

Morning

Please find my feedback below for the proposed IPC draft.

Thanks for the opportunity to make a submission on the Council's draft IPC standard with respect to the management of endemic COVID-19.

I would like to make the following comments:

Can these guidelines please align with the new "traffic light" system, as this will cause angst on the ground if clinicians can't make it fit with this – even if it is a statement that one size fits all.

1. I would ask that you give special consideration to a pathway specifically for children under the age of 12. While I appreciate that the Council must protect the public, this draft will have the unintended consequence of harming many children and further increasing inequity due to what appears as an onerous (on the face of it) requirement to manage all children as moderate risk. We are still struggling to catch up after previous lockdowns, and I would imagine in Auckland the impact of this guidance will make moving forward insurmountable for their already struggling COHS.
 - a. I have no issue with the requirements if having to undertake an AGP
 - b. However, if we are unable to undertake non-AGP procedures with a degree of pragmatism then child services will become paralysed as we learn to live with endemic COVID.
2. I note that the latest guidance from the MoH "Ministry of Health position statement on the management of unvaccinated individuals in healthcare settings" make the following statement for the under 12's.
 - a. *"Those under 12 years of age are not yet eligible for vaccination. In the event of different pathways being implemented to manage unvaccinated individuals, a decision will need to be made on whether children will be included in this pathway, considering that the risk of transmission to adults from children appears to be less than the risk of transmission between adults".*
3. If the Council could please liaise with the MOH Oral Health team to ensure messaging goes out to acknowledge the impact these guidelines will have on services and that the pressure to manage arrears and enrolments is eased – as all COHS services will be between two very hard places with this disruption to BAU.
4. Clarification from when clock starts for stand-down period. The guidance says from when "when the instrument is used", is this any instrument or specifically handpieces?

Thanks for considering my feedback.

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Thanks again for the opportunity to feedback.

This is a very specific question as the draft makes no mention about the use of Nitrous Oxide sedation in children.

Can the Council please consider/advise on the use of nitrous oxide sedation in children, delivered by disposable nasal hoods with respect to the new IPC draft standard.

Thanks

Tim