

21 January 2022

Karyn Hill

Via email: karyn.hill@xtra.co.nz



100 Heads Road, Private Bag 3003
Whanganui 4540, New Zealand

Tēnā koe Karyn

Official Information Act Request – OIA 14003 COVID-19 Recovery Plan and Effect on Elderly Patients Requiring Hospital Care

On 1 December 2021, under section 12 of the Official Information Act, you requested the following information from Whanganui District Health Board (WDHB):

The Whanganui DHB COVID1-19 Disaster Recovery Plan should there be a COVID-19 outbreak in the Whanganui DHB area. Particular areas of interest:

1. Protocols around treating all patients and not turning them away
2. What plans are put in place if ICU and HDU beds are full
3. What plans will be put in place if there is a COVID-19 outbreak.

I have an elderly mum, who is in an Aged Care Facility, and I would like confidence that if she does need to go to hospital during an outbreak, this will happen, and she will not be refused admission.

Whanganui District Health Boards response:

1. Protocols around treating all patients and not turning them away

Patients that present to the emergency department are assessed and treated according to differential diagnosis. Whanganui Hospital does not turn away patients.

2. What plans are put in place if ICU and HDU beds are full

Whanganui Hospital has an Integrated Operations Centre that manages bed management to ensure we balance demand with capacity daily. If CCU is full we have several processes that will be operationalised to ensure that patients receive the complex care required.

3. What plans will be put in place if there is a COVID-19 outbreak.

Whanganui DHB has a suite of plans in place that can be operationalised in the event of a COVID-19 outbreak, to ensure that essential services continue. The pandemic plan and guidelines can be found on the WDHB website. All plans remain agile so that we can respond accordingly to single and widespread cases.

Should you have any further queries about the above information, please contact our OIA co-ordinator Anne Phoenix at anne.phoenix@wdhb.org.nz

Ngā mihi



Graham Dyer

Kaihautū Hauora – Acting Chief Executive
Whanganui District Health Board

Chief Executive | Phone 06 348 3140