



## COVID- 19 Alert Level Guidance, August 2021

### National Cervical Screening Programme delivery in primary health care and DHB colposcopy services

NB DHB Alert levels use the Community Response Framework which considers regional and local health system capacity and may vary region by region

Alert level	Primary care/community-based services	DHB colposcopy services
<b>Government Alert Level 4 in the region</b>	<p><b>Primary care:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Routine screening is paused</li> <li>Anyone due for more frequent surveillance screening or follow-up tests such as annual recalls, should continue to be invited, seen and referred as per the existing NCSP pathway</li> <li>Some providers or patients may not be able or comfortable undertaking cervical screening during this time and under these circumstances, a delay of up to three months is acceptable, with encouragement to attend once the three months has elapsed, particularly encouraging Māori and Pacific participants to attend.</li> </ul>	<p>Referrals to colposcopy continue as per NCSP protocols</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anyone with cytologic or clinical suspicion of invasive cancer is referred urgently for specialist assessment.</li> <li>Women are advised there may be a delay in being seen, particularly if referred for low-grade changes.</li> </ul> <p><b>DHB ALERT RED</b>  <b>DHB Colposcopy:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See proven or suspicious cervical cancer cases only</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OR</b></p>
<b>Government Alert Level 3 in the region</b>	<p><b>Primary care:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As soon as resources allow, regular three-yearly screening resumes for most participants except those over 70 years or with existing medical conditions, where the decision to screen is made on a case-by-case basis</li> <li>In the first instance, invitations should prioritise those who are overdue for screening, <i>using a pro-equity approach to prioritising Māori, Pacific, Asian and migrant and refugee participants</i></li> <li>Engage screening support services in your district, if available, to assist with engaging priority group participants who are hard to reach.</li> </ul>	<p><b>DHB ALERT ORANGE</b>  <b>DHB Colposcopy:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Referrals with suspected or proven cancer should be seen urgently</li> <li>High-grade referrals should be triaged and seen as soon as capacity allows.</li> <li>Other referrals are held</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OR</b></p>
<b>Government Alert Level 2 in the region</b>	<p><b>GOVERNMENT ALERT LEVEL 2</b>  <b>Primary care:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Routine three-yearly screening resumes for most participants</li> <li>Invitations for screening should prioritise those who are overdue, <i>using a pro-equity approach to prioritise Māori, Pacific, Asian and migrant and refugee participants.</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>DHB ALERT YELLOW</b>  <b>DHB Colposcopy:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invasive cancers, high-grade and low-grade referrals are seen, with prioritisation to manage capacity</li> <li>Some delay in seeing participants with low-grade referrals may still occur (up to 12 months instead of the usual 6 months)</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OR</b></p>
<b>Government Alert Level 1 in the region</b>	<p><b>GOVERNMENT ALERT LEVEL 1</b>  <b>Primary care:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All usual cervical screening programme activities resume.</li> </ul>	<p><b>DHB ALERT GREEN</b>  <b>DHB Colposcopy:</b> Restore normal services as quickly as possible.</p>