

19 March 2020

ATTENTION: All Preschools and Schools

With the current evolving situation with COVID-19 we would like to advise that many of our usual services are now being scaled back.

This will mean that our public health nursing school and preschool visiting are significantly reduced, before school checks are being scaled back in many areas and some home visits postponed. Our service continues to prioritise immunisation activities and prevention and management of vaccine preventable diseases, children and families, whanau who maybe experiencing barriers to accessing health services, significant concerns for child youth health, wellbeing or children and families at risk.

We would therefore ask that for the foreseeable future if you need to get in touch with a Public Health Nurse please send an email to the below address:

publichealthnursing@southerndhb.govt.nz

This email will be checked on a daily basis, please if the matter is not urgent consider if it can wait until we return to business as usual.

The **Ministry of Health** provides the most up to date, reliable and useful information on Covid-19

https://covid19.govt.nz/?gclid=EAlaIqObChMIn6fKnOii6AIVhR2PCh0w8wr8EAAYASAAEgJJTPD_BwE

The Ministry of Health have set up a dedicated 0800 number for any COVID-19 health advice and information and any questions you have about coronavirus, self-isolation etc.

The number is [0800 358 5453](tel:08003585453) – it is free and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Further information can be obtained from **Southern Health**.

<https://www.southernhealth.nz/novel-coronavirus>

We thank you for your understanding and patience at this time and look forward to returning to business as usual once this situation is under control.

Kind regards

Public Health Nursing Team
Southern District Health Board