

23 September 2021

Waitematā DHB Elective Surgery and Outpatient appointments at COVID-19 Alert Level 3

Please attribute to a Waitematā DHB spokesperson:

At Alert Level 3, Waitematā DHB is able to provide more services, including additional non-deferrable elective surgeries and non-urgent outpatient appointments that were not permitted to go ahead at Alert level 4.

Community services are still largely operating via telehealth, with the exception of a small number of community dental clinics.

All non-urgent, face-to-face appointments and procedures are carried out using strict infection prevention and control practices and COVID-19 screening upon entry.

Elective Surgery:

At Alert Level 3, patients will be contacted by the DHB with a time for their surgical consultation or operation, as well as an Alert level 3 patient information sheet. The sheet contains guidance around attending appointments at Alert Level 3 and what to do if patients have COVID-like symptoms and are unable to attend their appointment, including a contact number for our Patient Service Centre so that they can reschedule.

Outpatient appointments:

Outpatient services will continue to use telehealth at Alert Level 3, with an increase in face-to-face appointments where clinically necessary and appropriate. Patients will be contacted by their specialty service to book an in-person appointment if required. Upon contact, an Alert level 3 patient information sheet will also be provided. The sheet contains guidance around attending appointments at Alert Level 3 and what to do if patients have COVID-like symptoms and are unable to attend their appointment, including a contact number for our Patient Service Centre so that they can reschedule.

Ends.

For further information, contact:

Waitematā DHB Media Line, ph. 4871276