

Media Brief

TO Media Outlets

FROM Dr Josephine Herman, Secretary

DATE 10 March 2020

SUBJECT Preparing for COVID-19, Te Marae Ora streamlining health services

As part of Te Marae Ora's preparations to mitigate the impact of COVID-19, health care services are being reorganised to optimise social distancing and emergency response systems in Rarotonga and the Pa Enuā.

Please note the following:

- The 'coughs and colds' flu clinic will relocate to Tupapa and open on Friday 13 March 2020.
- All health specialist visits over the next three months have been placed on hold.
- All general surgical, medical, paediatrics, and women's health clinics will be reduced and phone consults encouraged. Patients will be issued three months' supply of medicines.
- All surgical and dental procedures will be limited to emergencies.
- All child immunisations will relocate to Rarotonga Hospital
- Urgent public health risk assessments (food, water, vector, sanitation) will continue, however all immigration medical checks will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Mental health services will be provided at the Tupapa office (next to Health administration).

All wound dressings will relocate to the Blackrock clinic and Tupapa MCH clinic (opposite Mangaia Hostel) and open Monday to Friday from 8am to 12pm. No dressings will be available at Tupapa or Rarotonga Hospital.

END

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