

**Weekly media and issues update**

*For the week ending: 27 March 2020*

PHARMAC Senior Leadership Team	PHARMAC Communications Team
Minister of Health Press Secretaries	Minister of Health Private Secretary
Ministry of Health Deputy Director General System Strategy and Policy	Ministry of Health Manager System Stewardship
Ministry of Health Relationship Manager	Ministry of Health Media Team

This update may contain personal or sensitive information that must not be disclosed or forwarded to anyone other than the recipients listed above.

**On call communications advisor**

Senior communications advisor Jane Wright is on call. The on-call media phone number is 021 863 342.

**Communications team**

- Jannel Fisher, communications manager s9(2)(a)
- Jane Wright, senior communications advisor – s9(2)(a)
- Cameron Webb, communications advisor – s9(2)(a)

## Upcoming issues and events

Subject	Timeframe	Details
COVID-19 and supply issues	<i>Ongoing</i>	<p>PHARMAC has put in place Pharmaceutical Schedule rule changes to restrict the dispensing of funded community medicines to just one month's supply at a time. We are working with all our providers – both medicine suppliers and medical device suppliers – to minimise any impacts on the general supply chain of manufacturing disruptions caused by shutdowns.</p> <p>PHARMAC will also continue to work with our suppliers and the National Health Coordination Centre (Ministry of Health) to ensure that our healthcare providers – both in the community and in hospitals – have the medicines and medical devices they will need should there be more cases of COVID-19.</p>

Out of Scope

## Media responses

Subject	Media outlet	Details
COVID 19 and the pharmaceutical supply chain	Newsroom	We provided details on how our supply chain works and how we are working with our suppliers to ensure medicines and medical devices continue to be in good supply.

Influenza	Newsroom	We responded to concerns that there could be a shortage of influenza vaccines in NZ.
	Dominion Post	
Contraception	NZ Herald	We advised the Herald that the shortage of certain brands of contraception was not related to COVID and that the supplier was working to get stock into New Zealand.

Out of Scope



No surprises and communications updates sent to Ministers Office this week

Date	Information supplied
24 March 2020	A no surprises was sent to Minister Clark's office on the restriction on the supply of hydroxychloroquine
24 March 2020	A no surprises was sent to Minister Clark's office and Minister Genter's office on influenza vaccines supply

IN CONFIDENCE  
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