

27 September 2022

Kia ora koutou,

We are writing to you about cyber security in Primary & Community Care. We know the subject of cyber security can often seem murky and threatening, or too technical, leaving many Kiwis and our colleagues feeling unable to take action to keep themselves, patient data, and our health technical/clinical and IT systems safe. Many people feel that cyber security is something for IT specialists to deal with, but many individuals and small businesses are vulnerable to scams and data loss. Cyber security now and in the future is shared mahi.

The National Cyber Security Uplift programme is working across the health sector to respond to an evolving digital world and the skills and processes that our people and systems will need to keep them safe.

In the first step to build cyber security with Primary & Community Care, we would like to understand what being cyber secure means to people and organisations. What practices do people use now and where are your greatest areas of opportunity to be confident that your organisation is secure? We need maximum participation and contributions from you all to shape the plan for improving cyber security in Primary & Community Care. We anticipate that the conversations this assessment will generate and the relationships we build will be the pathway to improving good cyber security understanding in our sector.

We have all seen and experienced the damage that cyber criminals can cause to the health sector and to our people personally. Cyber-crime is on the rise, people's health data is valuable to criminals and our systems can be vulnerable to ransomware or virus infections. This risk will only increase and at a time where we are progressively adopting digital/online ways to support patient care.

Our request for your support

This is where you come in, we would like to invite you as a leader in your organisation to encourage your employees and members to complete the upcoming online Primary & Community Care cyber security assessment form. We ran a similar exercise for our national and district colleagues in 2021. Primary care is more diverse and complex so we will need an extra effort to find the information we need to support improvement in this area. The assessment will be sent out as an email with a link to the questions for Primary & Community Care practitioners to complete.

The assessment timeline

- Assessment out with Primary & Community Care colleagues for completion – Start Monday 10 October (Cyber Smart Week), suggested close on Friday 25 November.
- Data collation and review to complete late December.
- Start discussions regarding collective findings with Primary & Community Care partners to consider opportunities and to strengthen operations – end November onwards.

If you have any specific questions or ideas about this cyber security Primary & Community Care assessment, please contact the Chief Information Security Officer for Primary & Community Care, Nancy Taneja Nancy.taneja@tewhatauora.govt.nz

Future correspondence about the assessment will be coming from Nancy and the Cyber Security Uplift team.

We hope we can rely on your support for this initiative. You and your colleagues' feedback will help us co-design more robust security services for the whole of the Primary & Community Care sector.

Nāku noa, nā



Fepulea'i Margie Apa
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Te Whatu Ora – Health New Zealand



Riana Manuel
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