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## Managing the second wave of Omicron

### Purpose

The purpose of this Advisory is to inform operators that yesterday the Government announced new public health measures to manage the spread of Covid-19. In addition to flu season, a second Omicron wave adds pressure on the health system. Below is a summary of the changes, and how they may affect your business. This is also a reminder that we are still operating during a pandemic.

### Summary of changes

#### RATs and masks

- **Free masks and rapid antigen tests** will be available from testing sites and collection points
- There is no eligibility criteria, you do not need to be unwell to collect either RATs or masks
- The Government encourages everyone to collect supplies from a testing site or other locations
- You can arrange to collect through the My Covid App or the [Covid-19 website](#)

#### Antiviral medication

To reduce the severity of a COVID-19 infection, antiviral medication will be available to a broader group of 'at risk' individuals

- From Monday next week (18 July) anyone over 75 years of age who has tested positive for COVID-19 will be eligible to access antivirals through their GP
- At-risk patients for acute respiratory illnesses can be pre-approved by their GP and have their prescription ready should they become unwell and need the medicine immediately

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## Support and information for businesses

For more information on how to manage the impact of COVID-19 cases at your business, see MBIE's page for guidance, including:

- Reducing the risk of Covid-19 infections at your business
- Creating a plan for Covid-19 cases affecting your business
- Following public health advice if you, your workers or someone else who visits your premise has Covid-19
- How to look after yourself and your mental health

## Acknowledgement

I would like to acknowledge BusinessNZ for its role in making the above information available.

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