

NBSP go live, timeline and communications

Bay of Plenty District Health Board National Bowel Screening Programme (NBSP) has the Ministry of Health green light to go live in May 2022.

In the Bay of Plenty more than 44,000 men and women aged 60-74 will be eligible for the free programme. Each will receive an invitation letter and test kit in the mail every two years around the time of their birthday. The rollout will be staged, to even out volumes along the pathway, with kits sent to people with an even-numbered birthday during the programme's first year, and to those with an odd-numbered birthday in the second year.

We expect there to be some NBSP participants already on the Bowel Screening Register (BSR) as we go live. These are participants who started their programme from outside the BOP region and moved during the process. The National Coordination Centre (NCC) will be working in the background to update the Bowel Screening Register (BSR).

For current BOP residents, the NBSP starts with each person being sent an invitation letter, then a Faecal Immunochemical (FIT) kit. The diagram below shows the process and a tentative timeline of how things may unfold:



We are currently working with community leaders who will act as champions to help us promote the NBSP through print media and electronic platforms – which is exciting!

We have the BOPDHB NBSP website page in development and we're working towards further developing the Outreach Network.

NBSP Western Bay PHO/Eastern Bay PHA Education planning

We have a definite go live date, of May 2022 and are working with Western Bay PHO and Eastern Bay PHA to secure education dates. NBSP education has recently been undertaken with Ngā Mataapuna Oranga PHO.

While we have completed some education with primary care, we have more to offer. Further sessions will include the who, what, when where and how of bowel screening. Keep an eye out for NBSP education through your CME sessions in the coming weeks.

NBSP resources will be made available to practices, along with the opportunity for in-practice education.

BOP NBSP Outreach Network progress

The BOP NBSP team has been engaging Māori Health providers to develop an Outreach Network. If you remember from last month's update, a key focus of the NBSP is to provide an outreach service to support priority populations to participate in the screening programme. Priority populations include Māori, Pacific Peoples, and high-deprivation communities. We want to work with Māori health providers and Pacific Peoples organisations as the faces known in their communities, to encourage whānau into the programme.

We have discussed the NBSP and concept of an Outreach Network with a number of Māori Health providers, who were keen to be involved in this life saving programme. To consolidate the outreach network, we will hold sessions 3 or 4 times a year to provide education, clinical support, and opportunities to dialogue on improvements to the NBSP.

We would love to hear from those who have attended so far about what else can we offer.

Latest NBSP statistics

From 1 July 2017 to 28 February 2022 the NBSP achieved:

Number of people invited

989,416

Testing kits returned

548,652

Positive results

22,092

Colonoscopies

17,639

Cancers detected

1,284