

# Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE USE



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## Keeping ED for Emergencies

New Zealand wide there are more than 1 million Emergency Department attendances [each year](#). The Emergency Department (ED) at Tauranga hospital sees 44,225 per annum and has seen 3850 patients in the last month, 400 more than this time last year.

The hospital is currently experiencing these high ED rates, partly due to the number of people presenting with flu symptoms. The hospital emphasises that the purpose of Emergency Departments is to treat emergencies. If you are just feeling unwell you should contact your GP initially.

“The first stop you should be making if you think you have the flu is to your GP, they can help you deal with your symptoms early. People coming into the Emergency Department are seen according to clinical priority, so it might mean you have to wait some time if you have a non-urgent condition.

There are a lot of services that your GP can provide for you” says Bay of Plenty District Health Board GP Liaison Andy Humphrey “This may save you time and be more convenient than waiting at the hospital.”

Key things to remember:

- In a medical emergency dial 111 for an ambulance
- Go to the Emergency Department in Emergencies only
- If you are unwell or injured contact your GP in the first instance or;
- Call Healthline free on 0800 611 116 for medical advice

Tauranga GP practices with extended hours available to all needing non-emergency care:

### Accident and Healthcare

**Hours:** 7 days a week: 8am to 9pm  
2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Tauranga  
Phone: 577 0010

### Centralmed

**Hours:** Monday – Friday: 8am to 8pm  
Saturdays: 9am to 6pm  
Sundays: 9am to 4pm  
Corner 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Devonport Road  
Phone: 928 8000

### Bayfair Doctors

**Hours:** Mondays to Saturdays: 8am to 7pm  
Sundays: 8am to 6pm  
42 Girven Road, Mt Maunganui  
Phone: 572 6800