

HAVELOCK NORTH WATER CONTAMINATION COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSISTANCE FUND FAQs

What is the fund for?

The Community Health Assistance Fund has been jointly established by Hawke's Bay Regional Council and Hastings District Council to provide financial assistance for people with a long term illness linked to symptoms consistent with campylobacter caused by the Havelock North water contamination in 2016.

The Fund has been set up to provide a one-off contribution to financial costs or losses that have incurred as a result of that long-term illness.

What is a long-term illness?

A long-term illness is a recognised medical illness that has lasted for six months or longer, after you experienced initial symptoms consistent with campylobacter between 5 August and 6 September 2016.

Recognised illnesses include (but may not be limited to):

- Guillain Barré Syndrome
- Reactive arthritis
- Inflamed bowel
- Kidney failure

I was ill for a long time after I had gastro but I'm okay now. Can I apply?

Yes, provided you meet the criteria. See www.hastingsdc.govt.nz/community-health-assistance for more info.

Am I (or a member of my family) eligible to apply?

If you (or a member of your family) had symptoms related to campylobacter between 5 August and 6 September 2016, and then suffered a long-term medical condition linked to those symptoms for at least six months afterwards, then you may be eligible to apply. If you are responsible for the care of someone else in your household, then you may apply on their behalf.

What if I wasn't officially diagnosed with campylobacter?

Not everyone who became sick was officially diagnosed by their GP. If you saw your doctor at the time you first were sick, then the information your GP provides will be used to assess your application. If you did not visit your GP at the time you first became sick, then your GP can provide information about later visits you made.

How do I apply?

Application forms and further information is available from Hastings District Council's website: www.hastingsdc.govt.nz/community-health-assistance.

Hard copy forms are also available:

- from Hastings District Council reception;
- at any of the Hastings District Libraries; or
- from your medical practice.

Your application needs to include:

1. Your Community Health Assistance application form;
2. GP referral form – completed by your doctor; and
3. Proof of costs that you have incurred (e.g. receipts – your GP practice will be able to assist you with this).

Once you have completed the forms and provided all the required information you can either:

- Email your forms to CHA@hdc.govt.nz;
- Deliver it in person, marked 'CONFIDENTIAL', to Hastings District Council, 207 Lyndon Road East, Hastings – ATTN: Community Health Assistance Team; or
- Post it to Hastings District Council, marked 'CONFIDENTIAL', Private Bag 9002, Hastings 4156 – ATTN: Community Health Assistance Team.

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What if I can't get to my GP?

If you are unable to see your GP within the six week application period due to financial hardship, please contact the Community Health Assistance Team at CHA@hdc.govt.nz regarding the cost involved in getting the Doctor Referral Form completed.

What can I apply for?

You can apply for costs you have incurred that are directly linked to the long-term illness. You will be asked to outline and demonstrate your costs. You will also be asked about financial assistance that you may have already received from other sources, including Work and Income, health insurance, employer assistance, etc.

Can I apply if I have a skin reaction to chlorine in the water?

The fund is only available to people who are affected by a long-term medical condition linked to symptoms consistent with campylobacter experienced between 5 August and 6 September 2016. Skin conditions such as eczema, dermatitis or itchy or flaky skin caused by exposure to chlorine are not covered by this Fund.

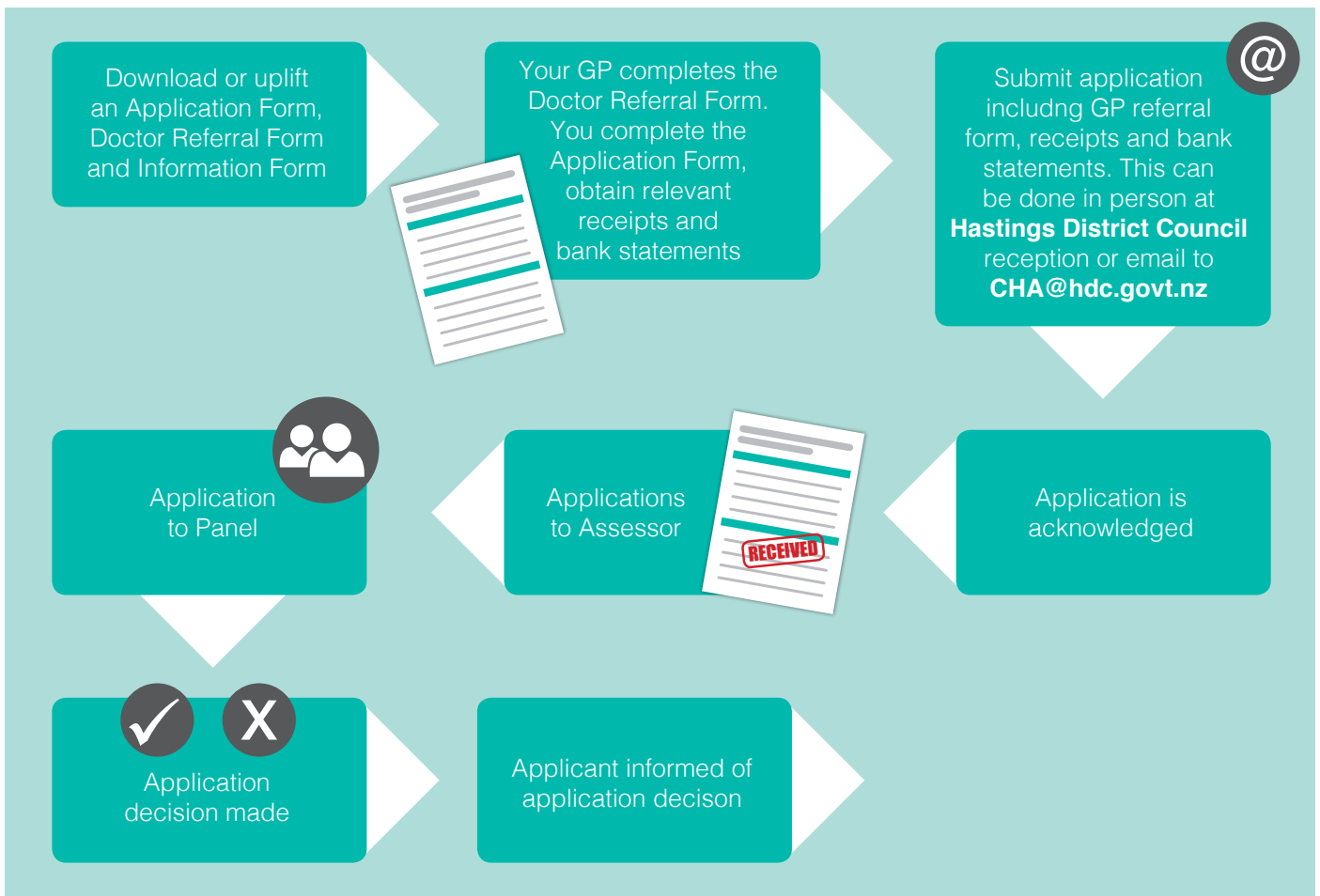
Can I apply if I live outside Hastings?

Applications can be made by anyone who became ill as a result of the Havelock North campylobacter outbreak between 5 August and 6 September 2016, and who has experienced a long term medical illness linked to it.

Is the financial assistance ongoing?

No. The fund is a one-off contribution towards costs, it is not ongoing support.

What is the application process?



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Who decides whether my application is accepted?

An independent medical assessor will firstly assess your application from a medical perspective. If your application meets the criteria, then a panel will consider the level of financial assistance you may be granted. The panel includes one representative from each of the councils, a central government representative and an independent community representative. You may be asked to attend an independent medical assessment (at no cost to you).

What is the timeline?

Applications are open from Friday 11 August until 5pm Friday 22 September. You will receive acknowledgement when your application has been received.

The review panel will meet after Friday 22 September and applicants will be advised of the outcome.

Can I appeal the outcome?

No. The decision of the medical assessor and the panel is final.