

# Media Release

## Temporary car park closure while surface sealant applied

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The temporary car park on the former Canterbury Brewery site (at the corner of St Asaph and Antigua Streets) will be closed from midnight tonight to allow a special coating to be applied to its surface.

The Christchurch City Council will provide short-term parking options for Canterbury District Health Board staff that routinely use the site while the car park is closed. However it is expected the site will reopen on Monday, weather permitting.

The site will be home to Christchurch's Metro Sports Facility but is temporarily being used for car parking until the construction starts.

As part of the pre-construction preparation, the grounds were routinely tested. These tests determine how the site will need to be treated in order to secure resource consent for early enabling works.

Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority chief executive Roger Sutton says the test results received this week show slight traces of asbestos within the soil, which is to be expected given the age of the now-demolished brewery buildings.

"We have taken advice from CDHB's medical officer of health with regard to the risk this small level of asbestos actually poses. Based on that, we want to put a seal over the surface of the car park to contain the dust on site," Mr Sutton says.

"We have been keeping the site watered overnight since we had the result earlier this week, and this is an appropriate precaution given the low level of risk. However to ensure we give the community full confidence we have decided to also coat the site with a specific covering."

Mr Sutton says there is a general concern in the community about asbestos, and that is understandable.

"However I want to assure the community who have been using this car park that we have sought the best health advice, while keeping the low level of contamination in perspective."

Mr Sutton says medical advice reiterates that diseases caused by asbestos inhalation are as a result of long term exposure, which is not the situation presented at the former brewery site.

"We think it's important to give public confidence without making this small risk into something more than it really is."

"As the Metro Sports Facility plans and construction works progress, we will address the site with best practice methods to treat and/or remove materials on the site as appropriate, just as we do on every site we are developing."