



# TOITU TAIRĀWHITI

NGATI POROU - TE AITANGA A MAHAKI - RONGOWHAKAATA - NGAI TAMANUHIRI

## PANUI 20 OKETOPA 2021

***If you want FREEDOM and are worried about your RIGHTS,  
Remember you have to be ALIVE to have both... - Adrienne Hovell***

**Tena tatou,**

The number of new community cases of Covid-19 in New Zealand has dropped from yesterday's record high of 94, with 60 new cases reported today. Fifty-six of today's cases were in Auckland and four were in Waikato. There were also two cases reported at the border today.

The [94 new community cases](#) reported on yesterday is the highest number since the pandemic began.

Twenty-two of today's 60 cases are yet to be linked to earlier cases. There are 166 unlinked cases from the past 14 days.

There are 43 people in hospital, including five in intensive care.

The number of community cases connected to the current outbreak is now 2158 and there have now been 4854 cases in this country since the pandemic began. The total number of cases in Waikato is now 56, 10 of whom have now recovered.

Director-General of Health Dr Ashley Bloomfield said infections were still expected to rise and daily numbers would bounce around. He continued to encourage New Zealanders to get tested for the virus.

There were 42,809 vaccine doses given yesterday - 10,392 first doses and 32,417 second doses.

He said health teams in Auckland will be focused on testing in areas where there is a higher test-positivity rate, where the risk of unidentified cases is considered potentially higher.

Dr Bloomfield also said from Thursday healthcare employees working in quarantine and isolation facilities would be allowed to work in other healthcare facilities without the need for a 48-hour stand-down period and negative test requirement. This approach is being taken to reduce some of the real pressure that the health workforce, is currently under.

Information relating to the criteria for the third dose of the Pfizer vaccine for immunocompromised people would be going up on the Health Ministry's website soon, including how this small group of people would be identified and when they would receive their

third vaccination. People will not be able to book a third vaccine on the Book My Vaccine website. However, details have been now posted on the Ministry of Health's website.

***If you remain unvaccinated Delta will find you  
Masks, sanitising and social distancing will only delay the inevitable.  
You are 20 times more likely to become infected than a full vaccinated person and  
40 times more likely to be hospitalised ... Dr Rawiri Taonui***

## COVID-19 CASES SUMMARY

Summary		
New cases reported during the past 24 hours		<b>62</b>
Active cases	At the border	23
	In the community	767
	Under investigation/other	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>790</b>
Most recent case reported		20 October 2021
Most recent case reported due to community transmission (spread within our communities)		20 October 2021
All case outcomes since first New Zealand case		
COVID-19 cases	Change in last 24 hours	Total
Active	54	790
Recovered	6	4395
Deceased	0	28

## Case details

Source of active cases		
	Change in last 24 hours	Total at present
People who travelled internationally and were diagnosed in managed facilities at the border	0	23
People in close contact with someone who caught COVID-19 while overseas	0	0
Caught COVID-19 from someone locally	<b>42</b>	<b>387</b>
Caught COVID-19 within NZ, but source is unknown	4	8
Under investigation	8	372

## Iwi Update

The Toitu Tairāwhiti Iwi Chairs participated in a round of on-line consultation hui with Senior Māori Ministers, led by the Associated Minister of Health, Hon Peeni Henare, Minister of Māori Development, Hon Willie Jackson, Minister of Crown and Iwi/Māori Relations, Hon Kelvin Davis over the weekend. The purpose of the hui was to consult with Iwi leaders from across the country and leaders of Māori organisations including the NZ Māori Council, Māori Womans Welfare League on the draft Government Policy to introduce a new COVID Alert Level system.

The response from the Toitu Tairāwhiti Chairs is as follows;

### Position Summary

1. We oppose any moves to *Eliminate the Elimination Strategy* until the national Māori vaccination rate at least matches the NZ pakeha rate. Vaccination and public health must remain our top priority.
2. A change of the Alert Level system will confuse our communities, and lead to avoidable deaths among Māori and other vulnerable groups. This must not be allowed to happen.
3. The 'traffic light' system suits the financially and technologically advantaged, which means the *Māori Wealth Gap* will further widen the *Health Gap*.
4. In all matters, we assert our mana motuhake as iwi of Tairāwhiti, which includes our duty to protect our whanau hapu, current and future generations. We will therefore take all necessary steps to protect our currently unvaccinated members from the introduction of COVID-19 into our district until we have achieved vaccination parity with all other NZers.

### The Proposal Leaves Māori to Suffer & Die

- We can see no justification for the Government's change of approach other than a desire to cut its costs, and pressure from the business sector to get the public out and about again, and spending.
- Tairāwhiti district ranks 14th out of 20 DHB districts on first vax doses to Māori, and sixth out of 20 on second vax doses to Māori. Within our district, Tairāwhiti Māori vax rates (at least one dose) are approximately 20% less than Tairāwhiti pakeha.
- If Government dilutes its approach, away from its COVID-19 elimination strategy, *before* we have closed the vaccination gap, then the exposure to COVID related illness, hardship and death will fall significantly on Māori households.
- We therefore stenuously oppose the proposed *elimination of the elimination strategy* until Māori have achieved vaccination parity with all other NZers.

### Confusion will kill our Vulnerable

- In Tamaki Makaurau we are witnessing the adverse impact of diluting the elimination strategy, and its related control measures. Māori are featuring disproportionately among the delta positive cases there.

- The core aspects of the four-tier Alert Level system are generally well understood by Maori and the general public. The additional steps introduced in Tamaki Makaurau under Level 3 are not, as evidenced by the sharp rise in case numbers and the worrying projections about numbers in coming weeks.
- Given this experience, it is unfathomable that officials recommend a wholesale change to Aotearoa's Alert Level system. This will lead to mass confusion, erosion of safe practices and increased exposure to the virus.
- Again, the disproportionately affected will be Maori – our unvaccinated and our whanau members with existing co-morbidities.
- What is needed is consolidation and simplification of the current four-tier Alert level system – not a system with new labelling to go with largely similar content to the current system that only stands to confuse, disaffect and then kill our most vulnerable.

#### Wealth Gap to Health Gap

- The traffic light system paves the way for greater use of *self-isolation at home*. The government has initiated trials involving technology to support self-isolation, while it is also poised to roll-out NZ's 'vax passport' next month.
- These measures favour the professional and well-off households, but place our poorer households, our ICT 'have nots' and our elderly further on the margins.
- We must not exacerbate the already entrenched cycles of disadvantage and inequity Maori households face.

#### Protecting our Whanau

- The proposed change of policy is a threat to the well-being our whanau hapu and communities.
- Since the first national lockdown in March 2020 we have been considered in our response to local hapu led 'checkpoints' on our roads; and our position of maintaining public safety and lawful conduct.
- The Government's policy change, while so many of our whanau remain unvaccinated, will leave us no option but to close our borders, under our tikanga and leadership obligations to our people, and in line with our mana motuhake guaranteed us by the Crown under the Treaty of Waitangi.

#### *A final point:*

- Our iwi-led haoura providers are already flogging themselves to vaccinate our district Maori population, and contribute to vaccination rates for other members of our district. But they will continue on until our vaccination mission is completed.
- But, what angers us is the almost total lack of support from the mainstream PHO, and its pakeha practices, to help us reach their 8,000 plus enrolled Maori patients. We will have no further tolerance for this failure of accountability

from the Ministry and PHO leadership, and the risks they have caused our whanau.

Nga matou,



Selwyn Parata  
Chair, Te Runanganui o Ngati Porou



Moera Brown  
Chair, Rongowhakaata Iwi Trust



Pene Brown  
Chair, Te Aitanga a Mahaki Trust



Pauline Hill  
Chair, Tamanuhiri Tutu Poroporo Trust

## Ngati Porou Hauora & Turanga Health



TE TINI O POROU VACCINATION CLINIC		
Te Tini o Porou – 75 Huxley Rd	Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> Oct – Friday 22 Oct	2pm – 7pm
WHANAU VACCINATIONS IN THE PARK		
Centennial Crescent	Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	4pm - 6pm
Taruheru Crescent	Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> October	4pm – 6pm
EAST COAST CLINICS		
Matakaoa Clinic (06) 864 4801	Monday 18th October	10am – 6:30pm
Uawa Clinic (06) 862 6650	Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> October	10am – 6:30m
Ruatoria Clinic (06) 864 8316	Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	10am – 6:30pm
Tokomaru Clinic (06) 864 6803	Thursday 21st October	10am – 6:30pm
Te Puia Springs Clinic (06) 864 6803	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	10am – 6:30pm

In event of a tangihanga at the marae an alternative venue will be available.

**NO APPOINTMENT REQUIRED, JUST WALK IN.**

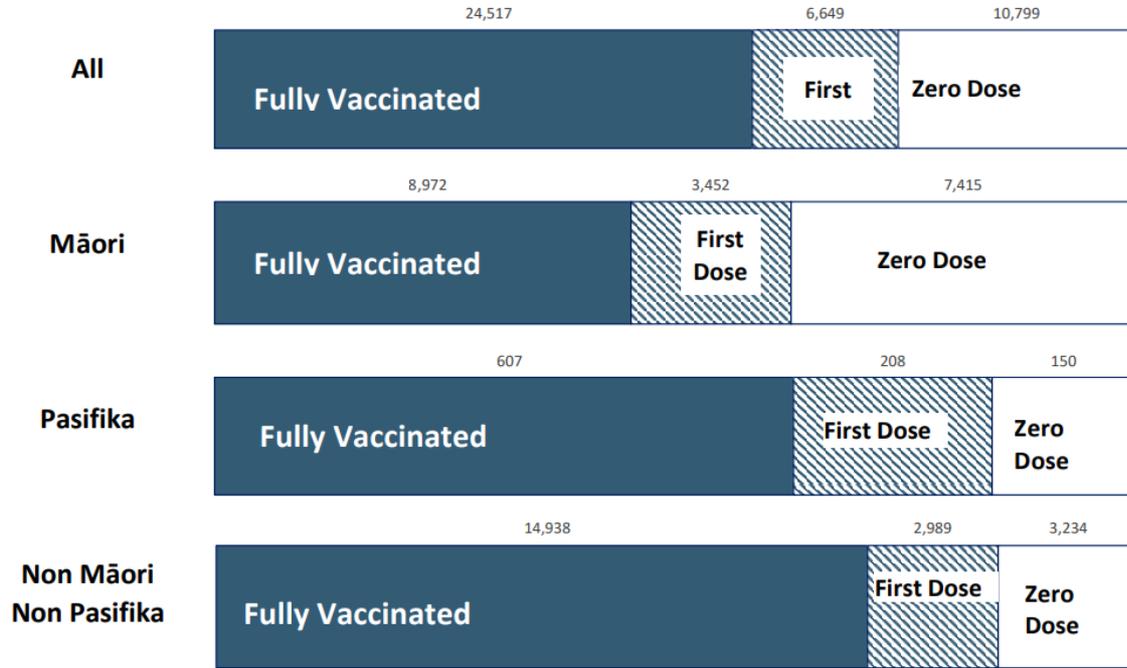
Unite  
against  
COVID-19

# Regional Update

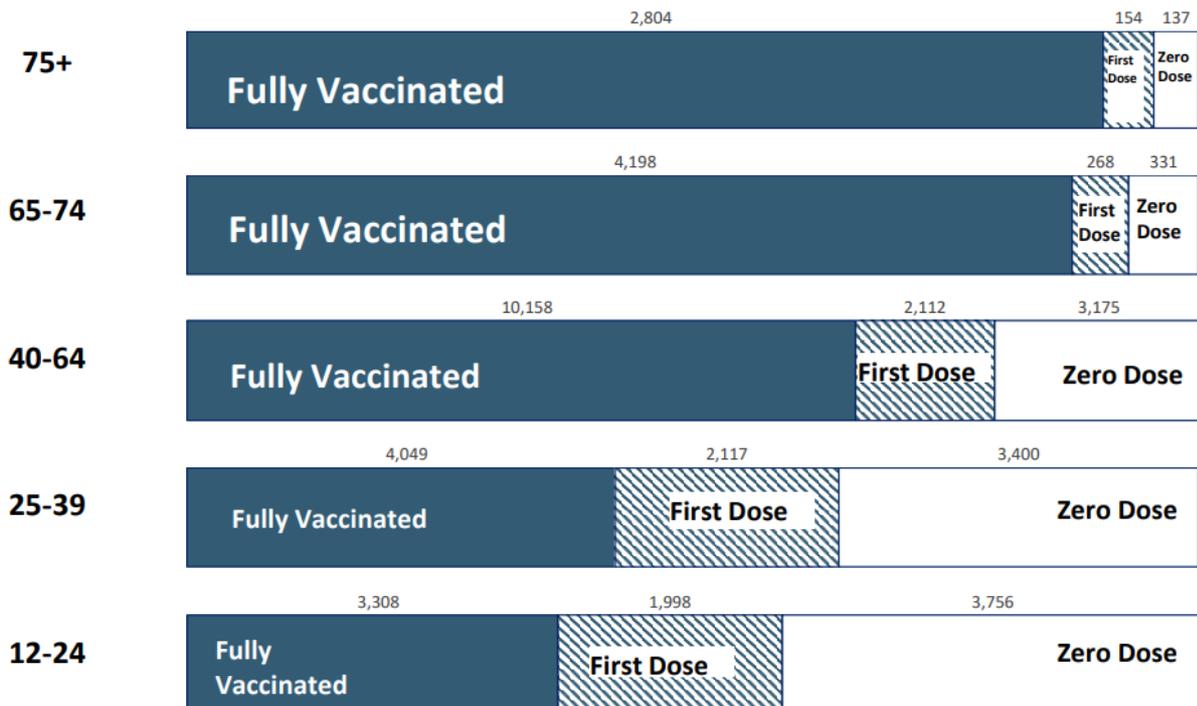
No confirmed COVID-19 cases in Tairāwhiti.

## Tairāwhiti Vaccination graph

### Coverage by Ethnicity



### Coverage by Age Group



## **Vaccinating Tairāwhiti Survey.**

An online community-led survey, of about 400 Tairāwhiti residents, organised by Ruatoria resident Manu Caddie was undertaken between October 5 and 10 to better understand people's attitudes to the Covid-19 vaccination.

Of the 300 respondents who provided their thoughts on how to get more people vaccinated, **65 percent thought more information about the impact of a community outbreak would assist the effort.**

About 60 percent said previously hesitant residents talking about why they chose to get vaccinated could help while 55 percent supported the idea of a mobile vaccination van.

Free fast food, financial incentives and "methodically banging on every single door in Tairāwhiti" were also suggested as ways of getting more people vaccinated.

Of 280 respondents who had received a dose of the vaccine, the most common reason for doing so was to give others and themselves the best chance of surviving Covid-19.

Many cited their reasons for being vaccinated as their whānau and wanting to protect tamariki and kaumatua, as well as wanting to be able to travel overseas.

Of 33 people who gave their reasons for not getting the vaccine, 70 percent cited concerns about safety, 50 percent believed their own immunity would keep them safe and 42 percent said they didn't trust the Government.

Survey organiser said, "agencies should be focusing on local champions who may not be the usual suspects but who are trusted within these marginalised groups"

Hauora Tairāwhiti chief executive Jim Green welcomed the results of the survey, saying all information about what was motivating people to get vaccinated or causing hesitation was valuable.

The district health board was planning to hold a webinar in which people could put their vaccine questions to the experts, which stemmed from the survey's findings and feedback from iwi.

"We're looking for any ideas that people might have that would make a difference for them or for others," Mr Green said.

Eighty percent of respondents to the survey were female and more than half were from people aged between 35 and 54 years. Fifty-five percent identified as Māori while 75 percent of all responders resided in the city and 25 percent were in rural areas.

Mr Green also acknowledged that the survey was just a small proportion of the 41,000 people eligible for vaccination in Tairāwhiti.

## **Free KFC for People who have been vaccinated**

Anyone in Gisborne who has had their Covid-19 vaccination will be in line for free Kentucky Fried Chicken tomorrow, Thursday 21 October. Residents will be able to flash their Covid-19 vaccine card or sticker at KFC to get a free popcorn chicken snack box.

KFC is providing free Lolli-popcorn chicken to encourage those who are not vaccinated to get the jab and to thank those who already have.

Two regions each day will be able to get their free KFC Popcorn Chicken Snack Box. Gisborne will be activated tomorrow.

Every region will have two different days to access their post job popcorn box. These will be revealed the day before.

## National Update

### Alert Level updates

Northland -Moved to Alert Level 2 at 11:59PM on Tuesday 19 October

Waikato- Remains in Alert Level 3. Settings reviewed on Friday 22 October -

Auckland

- Remains in Alert Level 3 and with current restrictions in place for the next two weeks.
- Indoor gatherings are not allowed.
- Stick to your household bubble. Catch-ups can only occur outdoors. Be masked and distanced and no more than 10 people from two households at any one time.

Remainder of NZ

- NZ, outside of level 3 restrictions, remain in Alert Level 2.

### COVID Protection Framework

The plan is to now establish a vaccination target for Auckland and NZ to move into and start easing restrictions. This is called the COVID Protection Framework and will be discussed by the PM this coming Friday 22 October 2021.

### Extending COVID-19 Public Health Response (Vaccinations) Order 2021

On Monday, Cabinet made the decision to extend the existing *COVID-19 Public Health Response (Vaccinations) Order 2021* to include people who work in prisons. This follows the announcement last week that a range of workers in the health and disability, and education sectors will be required to be fully vaccinated in order to undertake their roles.

Some of the people in our prisons are some of the most vulnerable to becoming very unwell or dying from COVID-19 due to their health conditions and vulnerabilities. The risk of the virus being able to spread easily in residential facilities with large numbers of people living and working in close proximity to each other compounds this risk.

We have a duty of care to the men and women we manage in prisons, our staff, and our communities and we have been taking a range of steps to ensure the safety of everyone throughout the pandemic, including health screening for every person who enters a prison, managing newly received prisoners separately from those that have been in custody for longer than 14 days to avoid potential for COVID-19 to spread, testing newly arrived prisoners for COVID-19 (and again on days 5 and 12), and extensive use of PPE by staff and prisoners.

Health Services staff in Prisons have also recently reached a significant milestone – with 10,000 doses of the vaccine given to people in prison. They are taking every opportunity to continue to encourage people in prison to get vaccinated.

While there have only been eight cases of COVID-19 in prisons since March 2020, with zero transmission by these people to other prisoners or staff, mandating vaccination for people who work in our prisons provides an additional layer of protection.

The mandate will apply to:

- All staff who work in prisons;
- Health Services staff working in prisons;
- Psychologists in prisons and in the community;
- Many contracted providers and people who provide services in prisons; and
- All other regulated professions currently registered under the [Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act regulations](#).

The Order will require these people to have received their first dose of the vaccine by 30 October, and both doses by 1 December 2021.

Private visitors such as family members, statutory visitors to prisons such as the Ombudsman, legal advisors and Kaiwhakamana, will not be covered by the Order.

Currently over 80% of the 6,300-frontline staff in prisons have received their first dose of the vaccine as of 11 October, and over 65% are fully vaccinated.

## NZ Maori Tourism Update

### Tourism New Zealand: Gift Voucher Hub

Tourism New Zealand is encouraging New Zealanders to gift travel experiences this Christmas, giving their loved ones the chance to make the most of their summer.

If your business offers gift vouchers for your product(s), you can now submit your gift voucher information to feature as part of the campaign on [newzealand.com](#). This activity will run until 25 December and is applicable to Qualmark and non-Qualmark members.

**To** check out the Gifting hub page and all the information you need to get involved, including instructions and FAQs go to the Tourism New Zealand website.

<https://www.newzealand.com/nz/gift-vouchers>

**IR: Tax Due Date**

A reminder that Inland Revenue is closing its system from 3pm Thursday 21 October until Thursday 28 October for its final 'Business Transformation' – IR's upgrade of its system, processes, and organisations.

Tax filing due date has been extended to **4 November 2021** as a result of this.

If you can't pay your tax on time or in full due to COVID-19, Inland Revenue may be able to help you by cancelling penalties and interest.

If you're a myIR user or employer, note that all drafts saved for returns or secure mail in myIR need to be finalised and submitted by 3pm Thursday 21 October, otherwise they will be deleted as they can't be transferred as part of the closedown process.

If you have any pātai, please contact nga Kaitakawaenga Māori at IRD.

### Wage Subsidy #5

Open for two weeks from 15 October to 28 October.

[COVID-19 information for businesses - Business.govt.nz](https://www.business.govt.nz/covid-19-information-for-businesses)

[COVID-19 Resurgence Support Payment from Inland Revenue](https://www.business.govt.nz/covid-19-resurgence-support-payment-from-inland-revenue)

### Cybersmart Week: 18 – 24 October

A cybersecurity expert is warning SMEs that 'smishing' (a form of phishing – a cybercrime where individuals pose as legitimate institutions over email – but is particular to a text message or phone number) could target employees' phones to access company systems. For more information on how to keep yourself safe, read cybersecurity expert Daniel Watson's tips

visit: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/daniel-watson-smb-cybersecurity-expert-07424b12/>

### Testing of education staff in Alert Level 3 areas

Mandatory COVID-19 testing does not apply to areas in Alert Level 2. Where an area moves from Alert Level 3 to Alert Level 2, testing will no longer be required.

Employees who refuse to meet testing requirements cannot return to work onsite and will be committing an infringement offence if they do so.

### Information on return to school premises for students in Years 11-13 in Alert Level 3 areas

Students in Years 11-13 within Alert Level 3 areas will be able to return to school-on-school grounds from Tuesday, 26 October. This decision was based on public health advice and made after consultation with education sector leaders.

Students must wear masks when indoors at school and on school transport. Students returning to school are encouraged to be vaccinated. Vaccine mandates for school staff apply.

Students and staff at high risk of severe illness from COVID-19 should continue to stay home unless they are fully vaccinated.

### Exams for senior students

Exams will go ahead at the end of the year for senior secondary students across the whole country. Students in both Alert Level 2 and 3 will be able to sit their NCEA and Scholarship exams.

Students affected by the elevated Alert Levels in Northland, Auckland and the Waikato will be eligible for an Unexpected Event Grade, recognising the work they have done.

### MIQ Next room release

Rooms will be released on Thursday 21 October at 2pm through the virtual lobby. People should arrive on the website between 1pm-2pm. The room release will start at 2pm

### Changes in MIQ allocations

A new group allocation for MIQ has been created for critical health workers. From the end of November, there will be an ongoing allocation of 300 rooms per month for this group.

There is heavy demand for spaces in MIQ in the lead up to Christmas. The new allocations strike a balance between reconnecting with the world, bringing people home and looking after local community cases in the current outbreak.

284 rooms have been allocated to 350 people, mostly for people from the health sector and agricultural sector, and for engineers and technicians and military and diplomatic personnel.

An allocation has also been created for Ministerial travel. 20 rooms per month will be made available for travellers in this group from October 2021.

### Police compliance updates

Update on compliance with Public Health Orders Since Alert Level 3 came into place, 28 people have been charged with a total of 29 offences in Tamaki Makaurau, Northland, and parts of the Waikato as at 5pm on Monday, 19 October 2021

### Compliance with Auckland boundary checkpoints

As of 11.59pm on Tuesday 19 October, a total of 773,879 vehicles had been stopped at checkpoints on Auckland's northern and southern boundaries. 9,786 of these were turned around.

24,844 vehicles were processed at Auckland's boundary checkpoints yesterday (5,023 at northern checkpoints and 19,821 at southern checkpoints). 167 of them were turned around (57 at northern checkpoints and 116 at southern checkpoints).

Travel across alert level boundaries remains restricted. People who don't have the required evidence for permitted travel, as outlined on the Unite Against Covid-19 website, will be turned around.

***Through vaccination we can live the best possible life in Tairāwhiti***

**KIA MATAARA, KIA MANAWANUI**