



TOITU TAIRĀWHITI

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

PANUI

7 HEPETEMA 2021

Tena tatou,

In today's Panui we are featuring two articles that appeared in news feeds from Radio New Zealand and Newshub. One article covers the transmissibility of the Delta variant and efficacy of our Alert Levels and lockdown regimes. The second article highlights our vulnerability to COVID and a reminder to us all, on why we must take every precautionary measure, protect, test, and vaccinate to keep ourselves, whanau, hapu, iwi, and communities safe. Failure to do so would have devastating impact.

Opinion piece.

Transmissibility of Delta and efficacy of lockdown restrictions

The number of new cases in New Zealand's Delta outbreak is now on a downward trend and we have a good chance of eliminating it, even as lockdown restrictions ease for most of the country from tomorrow.



Photo: 123rf.com

After a peak in case numbers during the weekend of 28-29 August, the Ministry of Health reported only [20 new cases for three consecutive days](#), of which most were already in isolation during their infectious period.

This downward trend shows alert level 4 restrictions and contact tracing are working, bringing the effective reproductive number of the Delta variant down well below 1.

Our [latest estimates](#) suggest the R number is about 0.4, very close to the value observed in the [March-April outbreak in 2020](#), the last time the entire country was under the strictest lockdown.

We know that Delta is as much as twice as infectious as the original wild-type variant, but the level 4 lockdown measures are proving just as effective so far.

New Zealand can still eliminate the current outbreak, but with the Delta variant, nothing is guaranteed, and we can't be complacent.

Additional safeguards

From tomorrow, restrictions will ease for New Zealanders living outside Auckland. The new "Delta alert level 2" has some additional safeguards, including mandatory mask use and record keeping, two-metre distancing in most public venues, and gathering limits of 50 people inside and 100 people outside.

Some may be frustrated at the ongoing restrictions given there are no current cases in many parts of the country. But it's important to remember we can't seal Auckland off from the rest of New Zealand completely.

Essential workers still need to travel, and goods have to be moved around the country to keep supermarkets stocked. Regular [testing of essential workers](#) who need to cross the boundary has been introduced to reduce the risk. But no boundary is watertight and just because most regions have remained Covid-free so far doesn't guarantee a case won't emerge.

The additional restrictions will reduce the risk of superspreading events like those that triggered the lockdown. This is key to avoiding another explosive outbreak in a different part of the country, which could send us all back to square one.

Even with the additional restrictions, alert level 2 is unlikely to prevent an outbreak from growing, so this is a calculated risk. We need higher community testing rates in all regions. Combined with more extensive wastewater testing, this will help us pick up any cases that do leak out of Auckland before they have a chance to spread too far.

How much longer will Auckland have to wait?

Should the virus find its way into essential workplaces, it could cause a resurgence and prolong the outbreak significantly. New South Wales and Victoria both seemed to have their Delta outbreaks under control, only to see case numbers rise again as the virus [spread among essential workers](#).

The best way to prevent this is to drive case numbers down as quickly as possible. That means everyone doing their bit to deny the virus any chance to spread. In other words, Aucklanders will need to stick to their bubbles.

On the current trend, case numbers could be into single digits next week. If all new cases are close contacts who have been isolating throughout their infectious period, Auckland may be able to safely move to alert level 3 then.

However, it's also possible the outbreak will have a long tail. Each time Delta finds its way into a new household, it tends to rapidly infect everyone in that bubble. This could potentially lead to a significant number of new cases and cause the outbreak to drag on. Again, **denying the virus any chance to find new bubbles to infect is the best way to stamp it out quickly.**

Research shows Māori are more likely to die from COVID-19 than other New Zealanders

September 4, 2020

Authors **Michael Plank** Professor in Mathematics, University of Canterbury, **Andrew Sporle** Honorary Senior Research Fellow, University of Auckland, **Kate Hannah** Researcher, University of Auckland, **Melissa McLeod** Senior research fellow, University of Otago, **Nicholas Steyn** Research assistant, University of Auckland

The risk of dying from COVID-19 is at least 50% higher for Māori than New Zealanders from European backgrounds, according to a [study](#) published in September 2020.

Māori and Pacific populations are historically at greater risk of hospitalisation and death from pandemics. During the [2009 influenza pandemic](#), the rate of infection for Māori was twice that of Pākehā (European New Zealanders). Māori were three times more likely to be hospitalised and almost three times more likely to die.

Results show that if COVID-19 were allowed to become more widespread in New Zealand, it would have a devastating impact on Māori and Pacific communities.

Higher risks for Māori and Pacific people

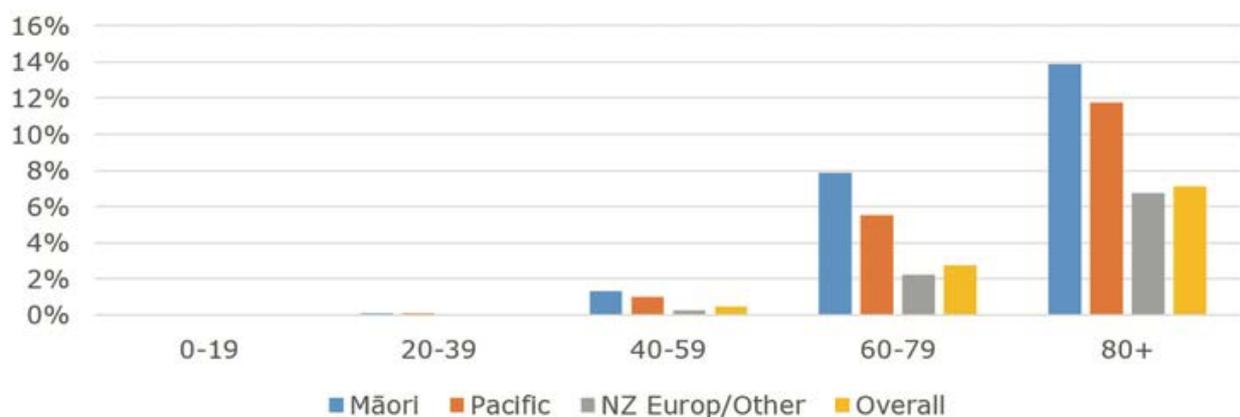
Evidence from overseas shows ethnic minority communities are at greater risk of serious health problems from COVID-19. In some parts of the US, Pacific islanders are being hospitalised at [up to ten times the rate](#) of other ethnicities. In the UK, Black and minority ethnic groups are suffering death rates [twice those of White people](#).

The study was based on [international data](#) on risk factors for COVID-19 fatality, including heart disease, diabetes, and asthma. We combined these with data on the prevalence of these conditions in different ethnic and age groups in New Zealand.

We also accounted for the fact that Māori and Pacific people have [lower life expectancy](#) and [higher unmet health-care needs](#) than European New Zealanders.

We found the risk of death from COVID-19 was at least 50% higher for Māori. It could be more than double the rate for European New Zealanders if the level of unmet healthcare need is actually greater than official data can capture. The risk for Pacific people could also be up to double that for European New Zealanders.

Estimated infection fatality rates by age and ethnicity



Infection fatality rate by age and ethnicity.

One of the immediate reasons for the higher risk Māori and Pacific people face is that they have higher rates of existing health conditions. These are strongly associated with more severe outcomes from COVID-19.

Māori and Pacific populations are younger, on average, than Pākehā. But they have lower life expectancy and tend to experience health issues at a younger age. They also experience greater rates of unmet healthcare need and greater levels of poverty, which have been shown to have a significant effect on fatality rates.

For these reasons, Māori and Pacific people are also at higher risk of becoming severely ill and needing to go to hospital as a result of COVID-19.

COVID Cases for Tuesday 6 September.

New cases reported during the past 24 hours		22*
Active cases	At the border	25
	In the community	694
	Under investigation/other	1**
	Total	720
Most recent case reported		06 September 2021
Most recent case reported due to community transmission (spread within our communities)		06 September 2021

all case outcomes since first New Zealand case		
COVID-19 cases	Change in last 24 hours	Total
Active	-9	720
Recovered	30	3066
Deceased	0	27

Iwi Update

A forum of 17 hapu/hapori leads meet 2-3 times a week to share information, provide a clearing house for issues occurring at hapu/hapori level and provide a sounding board for COVID response, relief, and recovery initiatives.

Police advised that the Static checkpoints will be stood down this evening and the police will conduct a review of the efficacy and necessity of the checkpoints. Hapu leads indicated that they want to participate in the review to present their insights and observations.

If Checkpoints are to be stood-up in the future, hapu/hapori would like to see Maori Wardens assigned to the Checkpoints, on the proviso that they have received relevant training and wear PPE.

Hapu/Hapori Leads have been working with Iwi staff to access and distribute food and supplies from MSD and the Whanau Ora Commissioning Agency. To date 900 whanau have accessed Whanau Ora support.

88 bins of fish were distributed to between approx. 800 households as part of the Pataka Ika initiative last week. It was agreed that rather than activate the Pataka Ika on a weekly basis, distribution would be organised twice month.

Hapu/Hapori leads are working with the CDEM regarding planning and organisation for Civil Emergencies including, pandemics and natural disasters such as, tsunami, flooding, and earthquakes. The proposal is to have containers with food and emergency supplies and equipment located in each community.

Date	Time	Venue	Phone Number
Wed 8 Sept		Ruatoria Clinic	(06) 864 8316
Thu 9 Sept		Tokomaru Senior Citizens	(06) 864 6803
Fri 10 Sept		Te Puia Springs Hospital	(06) 864 6803
Mon 6 - Fri 10 Sept	2.00pm-7.30pm	TE TINI O POROU Corner Huxley & Tyndall Rds., Turanga	
Sat 11 & Sun 12 Sept	10.00am-5.00pm	TE TINI O POROU Corner Huxley & Tyndall Rds., Turanga (Walk-in, no appointment required)	

Please note change in clinic times Need help with transport, Call or TXT 021 963 044

All vaccination clinics are open to all whānau 12 years and older. Children 12+ must be accompanied by a parent or caregiver to receive the vaccine.

Te Hauora o Tūrangānui a Kiwa Ltd

Turanga Health



TURANGA HEALTH RURAL VACCINATION CLINICS

Muriwai - Tamanuhiri Marae	Friday 10 September	10am-3pm
----------------------------	---------------------	----------

These clinics are open to all walk-ins, no appointment required.

Drive Through Vaccination Centre:

Wednesday 8 September - Harry Barker Reserve, 12pm-6pm.

Enter through the Gladstone Road entrance.

For vehicles only - no motorbikes, mopeds or walk through.

This clinic is open to all whānau, no appointment needed

The benefits of the COVID Vaccination

- Prevent you from getting COVID-19 or from becoming seriously ill or dying due to COVID-19
- Prevent you from spreading the COVID-19 virus to others
- Add to the number of people in the community who are protected from getting COVID-19 — making it harder for the disease to spread and contributing to herd immunity
- Prevent the COVID-19 virus from spreading and replicating, which allows it to mutate and possibly become more resistant to vaccines

Regional Update

No confirmed COVID-19 cases in Tairāwhiti.

Hauora Tairāwhiti

Vaccine rates as of 6 September

- 4,100 week ending 5 September compared with 6,000 previous weeks
- Fri 3 Sept – 707 Sat 4 Sept – 508, Sun 5 Sept – 110
- Numbers provided on 6 September indicate that we, Tairāwhiti have slipped to just below national progress for first dose for the whole NZ population.
- Nationwide progress is 609/ 1,000 for Tairāwhiti it is 597/1,000
- We have a sufficient number of vaccines to continue at the planned rate of 600 per day, for the next two weeks
- At this point Hauora Tairāwhiti has no intention on slowing down on vaccination program
- COVID Testing has dropped away, Hauora Tairāwhiti has closed its testing clinic, however, if you need to be tested, GPs are testing at their clinics.

COVID-19 Vaccinations



Vaccination Clinics

Poutama Clinic behind the Gisborne Hospital

Date	Time
Wed 8 Sept	9.00am -5.00pm
Thursday 9 September	10.00am – 6.00pm
Friday 10 September	9.00am – 5.00pm
Saturday 11 September	9.00am – 3.00pm

This clinic is for **booked** appointments only

Police

Static Checkpoints

Hicks Bay Static Checkpoint encountered 132 vehicles

Reason for travel is	Number of Vehicles
Work under AL3	24
Visiting whanau / children transport	28
Health / Hospital / GP / Pharmacy visit	1
Supermarket / Shop / Petrol Station visit	53
Travelling home	10
Trip to the landfill	8
Vet visit	3
Recreation	5

Okitu Static Checkpoint encountered - 418

Reason for travel is	Number of Vehicles
Work under AL3	94
Supermarket/Family/other Personal	127
Exercise	95
Family reasons	72
Medical	5
Fishing	25

National Update

How transit through Auckland will work once rest of NZ enters alert level 2

As all of New Zealand outside of Auckland prepares to enter alert level 2 at 11:59pm on Tuesday, inter-regional travel will be back on the cards. Auckland still at level 4 until at least next week, it means Northland is somewhat cut off and locals have to transit through the super city to get into Waikato and the rest of the country.

People will be able to transit through Auckland while going from one region to another, but they will need to travel through without stopping and have proof of where you're going to.

However, inter-regional travel will not be limited to travel for work, attend a funeral or tangihanga, go to a wedding or civil union, attend an education facility, or other essential reasons, then you can. The main focus has been on ensuring that those who are in Northland aren't unnecessarily disadvantaged, because they are a level 2 environment just like everyone else, but they are disadvantaged by having Auckland sandwiched right in between

It is likely that there will be slightly more traffic at the boundaries once most of the country moves to level 2, but police have prepared for this.

Reminder to travellers to have the appropriate travel documents on them to speed up the process. If you don't need to travel or don't have a legitimate reason, then please don't.

In an update on Monday, police said some drivers had travelled through regional checkpoints at speeds above 100km/h. The approach to each checkpoint has a temporary speed limit of 60km/h, which then reduces to 30km/h ahead of the checkpoint sites, a spokesperson said.

The latest numbers show more than 21,000 vehicles have been stopped at checkpoints on Auckland's northern and southern borders since level 3 came into force.

What we all need to do at Alert Level 2 to stay safe

We need your support to protect New Zealand and eliminate COVID-19.

- At Alert Level 2, there are no restrictions on who can be included in your household bubble.
- You can go to work, and all businesses and services can open but legally must follow public health rules.
- Early learning services, schools, kura and tertiary education facilities are open to everyone.
- Even if you have been vaccinated, you still need to follow the rules to keep everyone safe.

What are the differences between Alert Level 3 and Alert Level 2?

Alert Level 2 allows a little more freedom, but restrictions still exist to ensure the community and New Zealand remains safe. The virus changed with Delta, and that means we need to adjust too.

Face coverings and scanning in will be mandatory in more places, as more businesses and services can operate at Alert Level 2. It is encouraged that whenever you leave the house, you wear a face covering, other than when exercising, eating, or drinking or at a workplace that is not public facing.

There are limitations on the number of people for all gatherings and hospitality settings – with a limit of 50 people in indoor venues, up to 100 people at outdoor venues.

Can I expand my bubble at Alert Level 2?

You no longer need to keep to your bubble at Alert Level 2 and can socialise and attend gatherings of groups of up to 50 people indoors, and 100 people outdoors. Remember: more people mean more risk of virus transmission, so keep track of where you've been, and who you've seen in-person.

Do the limits of 50 / 100 include staff as well? Limits of 50 people at indoor hospitality venues, gatherings or event facilities does not include staff. Public-facing staff must wear face coverings.

Govt supports residential house building by allowing manufacture of building supplies

The Government has agreed to allow some building product manufacturing to take place in Auckland during Covid lockdown to support continued residential construction activity across New Zealand.

There are supply chain issues that arise from Alert Level 4 as building products that are manufactured domestically are mostly manufactured in Auckland. This is particularly the case for many items critical to residential housing construction, such as insulation, roofing, and plasterboard.

Tonight's move to Alert Level 2 outside Auckland means residential construction activity can largely resume in New Zealand. However, the constrained availability of building products will be an issue and that is why the Government has acted.

On the basis of advice from MBIE and consultation with the sector, Ministers decided to make changes to the Health Order to allow the manufacturer of some building products to resume in Auckland under Alert Level 4.

These are the products where there is the greatest concern about supply. Criteria will be set to assess whether manufacturing activity for certain building products can take place at Alert Level 4

The products must be a critical component of residential construction, there is limited supply and manufacturers must have health and safety measures in place to minimise the risk of COVID-19 transmission. Plasterboard, gypsum plaster, coated roofing steel and insulation meet this criterion.

With housing consents at all-time record highs, this change will help ease some of the building supplies constraints and support the ongoing building of much-needed houses in New Zealand in the biggest housing build programme since the 1970s,

Work will be undertaken with the minimum number of staff safely required. This work will be undertaken under Alert Level 4 rules."

The change to the Health Order to enable this to happen will be made over the next 48 hours. MBIE will manage the process of companies who are eligible to undertake this work.

Aotearoa and Global COVID-19 vaccine update

Vaccines administered 6-7 September 2021	Total	1st doses:	2nd doses:
Aotearoa vaccination rates	4,252,277	1st dose: 2,611,510 31.7%	2 nd dose 61.4%
	Doses per 100 people 70.38%		
Global vaccination rates	7,845,261,000	1st dose: 3,195,622,665 (40.7%)	2nd dose: 2,194,075,724 (28.0%)
	Doses per 100 people 70.38%		

KIA MATAARA, KIA MANAWANUI