

# **TOITU TAIRAWHITI**

## **Press Release**

**Tuesday 14 April 2020**

Toitu Tairawhiti Iwi Chairs are asking people to be calm, be safe and above all stay at home, in response to the announcement of the two new confirmed COVID-19 cases in Tairawhiti.

Toitu Tairawhiti, (Tairawhiti Iwi Chairs), Spokesperson, Selwyn Parata said “While we appreciate the seriousness of this development and the heightened levels of anxiety, we are confident that Health authorities are doing all they can to reduce the risk of any other COVID-19 cases in Tairawhiti”.

The new cases, a male in his fifties and a female in her forties, are unrelated and the DHB advises that there is no evidence of community transmission. We understand that the two people have complied with COVID-19 self-isolation requirements and health officials have initiated contact tracing for both people.

“Our message to our whanau is that we must all do our bit in the fight against COVID-19 and that is, stay at home, maintain hygiene and safe zone practices, and stop all unnecessary travel”, said Mr Parata.

Toitu Tairawhiti are also asking people to be more considered in their communications about COVID-19. “We need to stop speculating on Facebook about suspected COVID-19 cases in our rohe. Facebook posts about the location of recently confirmed Tairawhiti COVID-19 cases are not helpful and add an unnecessary layer of angst and anxiety in communities who are already feeling overwhelmed”.

Mr Parata went on to say, “We cannot run the risk of scaring people from coming forward to be tested, due to fear of public criticism and harassment. “Any members in our whanau and our community, who show flu symptoms, needs to feel comfortable and supported to come forward and be tested”.

Mr Parata says that the very best action any of us can take to stop the spread of COVID-19 is to stay in our bubble.

“If you stay in your bubble you will stay out of trouble”.

### **THE END**

All Inquiries related to this Press Release should be directed to-  
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