



# TOITU TAIRĀWHITI

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

## PANUI

5 MAY 2020

### COVID-19- State of our Nation

	Total	Change in last 24 hours
Number of confirmed cases in New Zealand	1,137	0
Number of probable cases	350	-1
Number of confirmed and probable cases	1,486	-1
Number of cases currently in hospital	4	-4
Number of cases currently in hospital	4	-5
Number of recovered cases	1,302	26
Number of deaths	20	0

Director-General of Health Dr Ashley Bloomfield said having zero new cases of COVID-19 to report for the second day in a row was very encouraging, and all New Zealanders should feel proud of what they had achieved together over these past weeks.

Dr Bloomfield said ‘we must stick to the plan. The worst thing we could do is celebrate success prematurely and jeopardise the gains we have made’.

‘Stay the course and stay in your bubble – don’t squander what we have achieved by giving the virus a chance to spread in our communities that we have worked so hard to protect.’

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This week Toitu Tairāwhiti staff and volunteers will be full on assembling another 1900 hygiene packs, some for distribution across the rohe and others to be retained as part of the collateral that Toitu Tairāwhiti is stockpiling in their newly established Emergency Relief Bank.



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Key iwi/hapu/community hub leads are working with Toitu Tairawhiti Iwi Managers and ECC staff on the logistics for transporting 120 pallets of food and household goods sourced from Bidfoods in the Hawkes Bay. The foodstuffs and household supplies are due to arrive in Turanga early next week, for deployment across Turanga and the Coast.

## Hapu/Iwi/Community Checkpoints

The establishment of the network of checkpoints up the Coast has been a matter of debate, with some people clearly backing the move and others, the minority, less enamoured by what they view as an impediment to their ability to move freely around the community, even in Alert Level 3 & 4 Lockdown.

A refreshing perspective on the rationale and value of establishing Checkpoints on the Coast, Northland and Taranaki was expressed in an Opinion piece, by the newly minted Police Commissioner Andy Coster. This story appeared in Stuff this week. We think the article is worth sharing.

## Coronavirus: Iwi checkpoints were about safety and discretion

**OPINION:** Much has been said about Covid-19 community checkpoints and the police approach to dealing with them. Some of the commentary has raised fair questions, to which I wish to respond by articulating why police have proceeded as we have.

Early in this crisis, the information available about the nature of the threat and its spread was patchy. Different communities responded in different ways. For many Māori communities, the knowledge that, on a per capita basis, seven times as many Māori died compared to Pakeha in the last big epidemic was an understandable cause for fear and concern. There is strong scientific evidence that indigenous people are much more vulnerable to epidemics, consistent with other poor health outcomes.

For Māori, kaumatua and kuia hold the cultural history of iwi through an oral tradition. Whilst this is not unique to Māori communities, it is particularly an important aspect of Te Ao Māori (the Māori worldview).

Considering this, these communities feared not only the loss of loved ones (like all New Zealanders), but the wiping out of their cultural heritage as a result of Covid-19. A number of rural Māori communities, predominantly in the central, east, and north of the North Island, sought to protect their kaumatua and kuia, and the wider community, when they felt no other mechanism was available to them.

These small communities moved with urgency to establish community-led checkpoints to discourage movement not permitted under the level 4 controls. This was an approach that police actively discouraged.

However, where communities determined that they were committed to doing this, we worked to ensure permitted movement (to the level allowed under level 4) was maintained. Freedom of movement is a fundamental right in New Zealand, albeit one that can be legally constrained, as we have experienced over the last month.

**With minor exceptions, police were satisfied that the action being taken in these communities was strongly aligned to the controls that the Government had put in place, and community interactions were positive and enhancing community safety.**



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With police's stated organisational purpose being that people and communities should be safe and feel safe, we have been careful to understand and respond appropriately to the fear that this situation has created for many. Whilst we can bring many rational and legal arguments to this situation, the action in these communities was driven by their strongly perceived (and likely actual) vulnerability, which defined the context in which we were policing.

Further, we were mindful that a strong enforcement-led response to the community checkpoints could lead to protests at various sites around the country, where large numbers of people gathering would have increased the risk to the community, rather than reduce it. And this at a time when there was substantial and growing demand to support a range of Covid-related responses.

Our model of policing is underpinned by the concept of discretion, exactly because the law applied without judgment can lead to worse outcomes than the harm at which the law is directed in the first place. The application of discretion is an art, not a science, and it is therefore open to debate whether discretion has been applied the right way.

That is criticism to which we are open, and do not expect to escape. However, it must be accepted this has been an unprecedented event, in which there has been no easy or optimum response.

Police Commissioner., Andy Coster, 4 May 2020

## REGIONAL PICTURE

### Overview

The local ECC has put forward a proposal to the GDC to have Summer and Freedom Camping Compliance officers reinstated to monitor the influx of freedom campers coming into the region.

### Hauora

The War Memorial based CBAC is considering reducing their weekend opening hours and will confirm their hours later this week.

The risk that flu season coincides with the Covid-19 means Tairāwhiti cannot afford to have low vaccination rates this year. Five community pharmacies in Gisborne offer influenza vaccine.

### Vulnerable communities

A second vehicle checkpoint at Whakaangi Te Araroa has been re-established by the local community. Sgt Leighton who is covering the coast will be meeting with the organisers around lunchtime today.

Following the closing of the Uawa Community Check Point, units were mobile through Tolaga and Tokomaru Bay area on both early and late shifts. Poor weather could be the contributing factor for low volumes of travel for recreational purposes, logging trucks and work vehicles being most of the traffic flow.

The checkpoint at Wharekahika remains unchanged, and the HB staff remain.



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## Transport

At Alert Level 3, no Air NZ flights are permissible, and the terminal remains locked. Contractors recommenced work on the Terminal building construction site, last week with strict safety protocols in place.

Helicopters and top dressing are still operating in a limited capacity.

## NATIONAL PICTURE

### Government -COVID-19

#### Exemptions

New Zealand requires everyone entering the country to go into a 14-day managed isolation period or quarantine if they are symptomatic unless they have an approved exemption.

To date, since 28 March, around 6,000 returned travellers have gone into managed isolation. There are currently 179 people in quarantine facilities, and 2,792 people in managed isolation.

These precautions are to prevent the virus coming into the country, to ensure all New Zealanders are protected. There is a process for requesting an exemption on compassionate grounds.

The Ministry has to date received 24 requests related to a dying relative that had been declined. There has been a judicial review of a request, which last Friday resulted in the court intervening and a personal visit organised.

As a result of that judicial review, the Ministry is now reviewing previous similar requests to ensure they followed the correct process and taking into account the Judge's findings. That review started yesterday, and the plan is to complete the review as soon as possible this week.

The Ministry's work to date has been to balance protecting New Zealanders with allowing individuals to safely visit a dying relative or attend their funeral. The Ministry has taken a very precautionary approach and this review now will ensure that each case was looked at as carefully and compassionately as possible.

## Guidelines for the Hospitality and Accommodation Services during COVID19 Level 3 restrictions

It is understood that many of those in the hospitality sector will be looking for further guidance as we move into COVID-19 Level 3. The Level 3 status means:

- People are still instructed to stay home unless for essential personal movement. Essential personal movement is for activities such as accessing local services and businesses, recreation or work and school.
- Staying in extended bubbles of not more than two households.
- Workplaces must operate safely – keeping one metre between workers, recording who is working together, limiting interaction between groups of workers, disinfecting surfaces, and maintaining high hygiene standards.



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Alert Level 3 carries forward many of the restrictions in place at Level 4 but permits aspects of the economy to reopen in a safe way that will allow the economic recovery to begin.

At Alert Level 3, everyone must still work from home unless that is not possible. Workplaces can be reopened if the work cannot be done from home, for example forest harvesting, wood processing and construction, and the workplace can operate consistently with public health guidance. However, there cannot be contact with the public. For example, retail needs to be by contactless purchase and delivery, including drive-through and click and collect.

Retail storefronts, including hospitality businesses, cannot open to customers (except supermarkets, dairies, and petrol stations).

The information below provides guidance to help you navigate these extraordinary times.

## **Why physical interaction is limited**

The reason for moving New Zealand to COVID-19 Alert Level 4 was to take measures to eliminate COVID19 by severely minimising interactions between people. Eradicating the disease is vital to protect people's health and ensure our health system can cope and look after New Zealanders who become sick.

The Government attacked the disease early and hard by going into lockdown to eliminate the disease, so hopefully we can recover as a country, and as an economy sooner. The lockdown has helped us to move to Alert Level 3. However, restrictions on activities, including at workplaces and socially, is required to address a high risk of disease transmission within New Zealand.

## **Essential Services responsibilities**

If you are providing essential goods and services, you must:

1. minimise, or eliminate if possible, physical interactions amongst staff and with and between customers,
2. ensure appropriate health, hygiene and safety measures are in place,
3. restrict activity to only what is essential during the Alert Level 4 period.

It is for a business to decide how to best do this. It is however expected that practices will include the likes of:

- a) Working from home as far as possible.
- b) Limiting, or eliminating if possible, physical interaction between staff e.g. through physical distancing, split shifts, staggered meal breaks, and flexible working arrangements.



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- c) Limiting, or eliminating if possible, physical interaction with and between customers e.g. through online or phone orders, contactless delivery, or managed entry (while also avoiding crowding outside) and physical distancing both inside and outside the premises.
- d) Hygiene basics of hand washing and sanitisers.
- e) Frequent cleaning of premises, especially counters and eftpos terminals, and other high-touch surfaces (cleaning advice is available on the Ministry of Health website).
- f) Protective equipment for staff as appropriate.

## **Physical distancing needs to be maintained even if you are an essential service**

If you are considered an essential service, you need to adhere to the restrictions while providing that service. This means measures such as appropriate hygiene always needs to be maintained , as well as appropriate distancing.

For example:

- contactless room delivery of food and beverage for inhouse guests will be required to ensure they leave a good space by leaving the food at the door without interaction
- contactless food and beverage pick-up for external guest should follow the Alert Level 3 – Hospitality Guidelines

In all situations, be clear with your customers about your procedures and why they are in place.

## **Accommodation is an essential business**

Any entity that provides accommodation services for essential workers, isolation/quarantine, and emergency housing is considered an essential business. For clarity, that always includes the following types of accommodation for in-house guests ( no external guests are allowed access):

- Hotels
- Motels
- Backpackers
- Lodges
- Bed and Breakfast
- Short-term Serviced Apartments
- Hostels
- Hall of Residence
- Holiday Parks and Campgrounds
- Airbnb – whole house only, no shared rooms
- Self-contained vehicles, such as motorhomes or campervans

## **Non-essential communal facilities and spaces need to close**



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All shared and communal areas that are not providing essential services will need to close. This includes bars, restaurants, dining rooms, gyms, pools, playgrounds, day spas, conference centres. Anywhere where the space is shared must close.

## **Essential communal facilities can stay open but must comply with restrictions**

Essential communal facilities are communal kitchens, bathrooms, and laundries in shared accommodation, such as backpackers, holiday parks or hostels that do not have self-contained facilities and do not offer services such as room service.

These facilities can still be utilised in these types of accommodation to ensure the guests have access to necessities. While these can still operate, operators need to create strict procedures will need to be developed to ensure physical distancing and rigorous hygiene practices can be maintained. For example:

- The use of these facilities must be carefully managed and kept to an absolute minimum.

- They are only to be used by named guests that have no alternative.
- Heighten the level of your cleaning protocols.
- Provide all guests that use the shared facilities – bathroom kitchen and dining – with disinfectant spray to wipe down contact areas after use.
- In the case of kitchen, dining, and laundry facilities you should allocate times for guests use and the hygiene expectations should be made clear.

**KIA MATAARA, KIA MANAWANUI**

