



TOITU TAIRĀWHITI

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

PANUI

6 MAY 2020

COVID-19- State of our Nation

	Total	Change in last 24 hours
Number of confirmed cases in New Zealand	1,138	1
Number of probable cases	350	1
Number of confirmed and probable cases	1,488	2
Number of cases currently in hospital	2	-2
Number of cases currently in hospital	4	-5
Number of recovered cases	1,316	14
Number of deaths	21	1

The Ministry of Health announced two new cases of COVID-19, made up of one confirmed case and one probable case, taking the total number of confirmed and probable cases to 1,488.

Sadly, another resident from Rosewood Rest Home & Hospital passed yesterday, taking the total number of COVID-19 deaths to 21.

Today's confirmed case is linked to the Marist College cluster. The student had a weak positive result and is almost certainly late in their illness. This case emphasises the need for all Marist students and staff to be tested if they have not done so already.

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Take a bow Tairawhiti, you have topped the pops, in respect to the lowest number of COVID cases in the country, a position we have sustained for the past week. We have had 4 COVID cases, all 4 people have recovered and were all vigilant in complying with self-isolation requirements, thereby contributing to containing any risk of community transmission.

Our Hauora providers, Hauora Tairawhiti, Turanga Health and Ngati Porou Hauora along with local GP's, Pharmacists and of course all our essential health workers and first response staff have all been outstanding. Our health services have performed with agility, professionalism, and the requisite degree of urgency, that comes from knowing your community, it's frailties and strengths.



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Table of the 10 DHB's with the lowest COVID-19 cases' across Aotearoa/New Zealand as at 9.00am 6 May 2020

DHB	Active	Recovered	Deceased	Total	Change in last 24 hours
Tairāwhiti	0	4		4	0
West Coast	0	4	1	5	0
Wairarapa	0	8		8	0
Whanganui	0	9		9	0
Taranaki	0	16		16	0
Lakes	0	16		16	0
South Canterbury	4	13		17	0
Hutt Valley	4	16		20	0
Northland	4	24		28	0
Mid Central	1	30		31	0

The sense of urgency and appreciation of our demographics, the relative high numbers of people with chronic health conditions and at-risk whanau was also understood by iwi/hapu and community leaders who established checkpoints across Tairāwhiti. Iwi Leaders asserted in letters to the Prime Minister and Ministers of Police, Defence and Civil Defence that as Mana Whenua in Tairāwhiti they had a cultural as well as social obligation to ensure the safety of whanau, communities, and the rohe from the Wharērata's, west to Matawai and north to Potaka.

One of the best descriptions of the unique role and obligations of iwi and hapu to the COVID threat that we have endured was expressed in an article by Andy Coster, the new Police Commissioner, published earlier this week. The following extracts are particularly pertinent.

“Considering this, these communities feared not only the loss of loved ones (like all New Zealanders), but the wiping out of their cultural heritage 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.”



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Credit also needs to be given to the local police and Regional Commander, for implementing a next level community policing model, that saw communities actively engaging the police to work with them to regulate unruly and in some cases unlawful movement around the district. The local CDEM has attracted praise by their peers and the NCDEM (National Civil Defence and Emergency Management) Committee for the inclusive and collaborative approach that they have taken, and in particular the involvement of the four local iwi, who have joined together under the mantle of , Toitu Tairawhiti.

Iwi involvement has been critical to achieving the level of outreach and coverage of some of our most vulnerable whanau and isolated rural communities. They along with Church groups, traditional emergency relief organisations and philanthropic groups mobilised immediately and have sustained their efforts throughout the past 6 weeks.

Finally we recognise the effort and commitment of the vast majority of our Tairawhiti community who remained in their bubbles, vigilantly maintained hygiene and safety practices and restricted all travel to an absolute minimum, the once a week visit to the supermarket for supplies and/or pharmacy for medical supplies.

While we are still not out of the 'woods' at least we can see the 'tree's' and more importantly we have strengthened our sense of community. We also have a renewed awareness and confidence that we are resilient and able to cope in times of crisis, if we all take personal responsibility for our own actions and back our leaders when they are required to act in the collective interests of our people and our rohe.

REGIONAL PICTURE

Hauora

Restrictions on visiting patients at Gisborne Hospital have been eased. During last month's Covid-19 lockdown, hospital visits were all but banned. Although patients in the hospital's intensive care unit or isolation ward are still not allowed visitors as a rule, exceptions on "essential or compassionate grounds" were possible.

A patient's visitors must be from the same "bubble". Visitors are screened at the hospital's only current public entrance, at the Emergency Department. Their details are taken in case contact tracing is required.

Visitors must be free of respiratory symptoms and not in isolation due to potential exposure to Covid-19.

Free Wi-Fi remained available at the hospital, with staff encouraging families to stay in touch with patients via phone or messaging apps.

Exceptions to the visitor policy include women in labour, who were allowed one support person from their bubble; infants and children, who were allowed a parent or caregiver; and emergency department patients, who were allowed one support person.

Visitors would need to use hand sanitiser, practise social distancing and follow staff instructions. Children are not allowed in wards, while people aged over 70, or with health conditions that put them at greater risk of illness.

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 had met with the organisers. There is Hawke's Bay staff travelling to Gisborne today who will man this check point. Units from Gisborne have been sent up this morning to cover.



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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. Police

NATIONAL PICTURE

A new \$500,000 fund will help farmers and growers prepare their businesses to recover from drought as the economy gets moving again, Agriculture Minister Damien O'Connor has announced.

The fund will provide advisory services that usually cost \$5000 to equip rural businesses with professional and technical advice to help them recover from and better prepare for future drought.

"As we rebuild the economy following the effects of a global pandemic, we have an opportunity to build back better than before and factor in resilience for our productive primary sector," Damien O'Connor said.

"So far this year the Government has invested \$17 million to help drought-stricken regions recover from what many are saying is the worst drought in living memory. It has affected all the North Island and a good portion of the South.

"Although there has been a bit of rain relief recently, it takes steady rain at the right time to get grass growing again. The flow-on effects of water shortages and low feed availability take a long time to fully recover from and some farmers will be dealing with the effects of this drought for a year or more.

"One of the unusual consequences of the drought has already started to be noticed by consumers – that being the paler colour of our butter.

"As the saying goes 'you are what you eat'. The same goes for cows. New Zealand's unique pasture-based farming system gives our butter a wonderful yellow colour. The shortage of grass and reliance on supplementary feed has meant our butter has started to turn white. A return to yellow will maintain our competitive advantage in our export markets.

"We know that, with climate change, we can expect more acute weather events so it's important we help farmers and growers get their businesses ready for future drought.

"Key to recovery is making good decisions, based on sound advice. The purpose of this new fund is to ensure our farmers

New Zealand COVID response earns investment confidence

Microsoft's decision to establish a datacentre region for cloud services in New Zealand shows the advantage this country has as a safe haven for business as we move ahead with our economic recovery from COVID-19 and that is being recognised globally, with the likes of this decision by Microsoft.

This means job opportunities in the near term for our construction industry and, in the longer term, for our ICT industry and local innovators. This also serves as a signal to the world that New Zealand is open for business and quality investment.



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New Zealand is a stable and globally competitive economy. We are party to a wide range of free trade agreements, have a regulatory regime which supports competition, an efficient tax regime, an open political system, and we encourage investment in innovation.

Cloud-based technologies are generally accepted now as being the way to work and innovate digitally. As such, Cloud is an important part of our Strategy for a Digital Public Service.

Today's decision by Microsoft means that the Government, and New Zealand businesses and people, will be able to access the scale and security of Cloud services offered by a major global provider in ways we have not been able to before.

Protecting New Zealanders' data and privacy is critically important. Onshore Cloud facilities give us stronger control of our data and reduce the concerns relating to storing data offshore.

Today's announcement represents a positive step in New Zealand's digital maturity, as we all adjust to working and learning online. New Zealand also has a reliable, almost entirely renewable power supply, crucial for hyper-scale Cloud services, which fits the carbon neutrality commitments of companies like Microsoft.

Microsoft's decision to establish its Cloud facilities in New Zealand has been made through the company's independent due diligence, and not through government procurement.

APEC economies agree to keep markets open and trade flowing in response to COVID-19

The 21 Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) ministers responsible for trade have committed to work together to ensure trade and investment continue to flow to help counter the impact of COVID-19.

In these troubled times, our region has recognised how important it is to act in concert to keep supply chains open and trade flowing, especially in essential goods and services.

This new commitment will promote a more stable trading environment for our food exporters. It will also help provide reliable access to the critical medical supplies we need.

Global cooperation, not national protectionism, is the best way to address the global challenge of this pandemic. This APEC commitment complements our other efforts, which include ongoing trade negotiations, the recent New Zealand-Singapore Declaration on essential goods, and similar commitments we have made in concert with other countries.

APEC trade ministers also acknowledged the economic impact of COVID-19 on the most vulnerable communities and sectors and undertook to ensure their recovery was a focus. New Zealand, and other like-minded countries, see trade as playing a key role in the economic recovery from COVID-19.

So New Zealand has also joined other WTO Members overnight in a statement supporting the multilateral trading system and highlighting its role in responding to COVID-19. New Zealand joined Australia, Canada, Singapore, and South Korea to facilitate the flow of goods and services as well as the essential movement of people.

It is in all our interests to ensure that essential goods and, in time, people involved in essential services, can go freely to where they are needed, while prioritising necessary public health objectives.

The United Arab Emirates also added their support to the joint statement between New Zealand and Singapore, and now nine other countries on Ensuring Supply Chain Connectivity amidst the COVID-19 situation."



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What should I do if I have a health problem?

A. If you are concerned about any aspect of your health, contact your doctor. Minor health issues can become more serious if ignored and it is important that you have the treatments and medications you need.

Call the general Healthline number on 0800 611 116 for any health concerns. All calls to Healthline are free and someone is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Call Plunketline if you have questions about your child or baby's health or wellbeing on 0800 933 922 and speak to a Plunket nurse. Plunketline runs 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Contact your midwife for support and advice during pregnancy and after birth.

If you are concerned about possible COVID-19 symptoms, call the dedicated COVID-19 Healthline number on 0800 358 5453.

Continue existing mental health treatment if possible. Talk to your GP, counsellor, caseworker, or mental health team about how they can continue supporting you.

Community mental health service appointments will be online or by phone where possible, however, there may be some face-to-face urgent appointments.

For support with anxiety, distress, or mental wellbeing, you can call or text 1737 to talk with a trained counsellor for free, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Resources

- Call Healthline if you suspect you have COVID-19 symptoms: 0800 358 5453
- For any other COVID-19 related queries, contact the government helpline: 0800 779 997
- Need to talk? Call or text 1737
- Visit [allright.org.nz](https://www.allright.org.nz) for practical mental health and wellbeing advice
- Essential business enquiries essential@mbie.govt.nz or 0800 22 66 57
- Report breaches of self-isolation [105.police.govt.nz](https://www.105.police.govt.nz)

KIA MATAARA, KIA MANAWANUI

