

October / Ōketopa 2021

Public Health Bulletin

Teena koutou and Ni Sa Bula Vinaka. Happy Fijian language week. We hope you enjoy the latest edition of the Public Health Bulletin.

COVID-19 update

Raglan, Te Kowhai, Huntly, Ngāruawāhia, and Hamilton City will go into level 3 restrictions Sunday, October 3 from 11.59pm. All other areas in the greater Waikato region are at Alert Level 2.

Testing

Anyone with cold, flu or COVID-19 symptoms are being advised to call Healthline, their GP or iwi health provider for guidance on whether they should get a COVID-19 test. The latest case definition and clinical guidelines for who should get a test are available [here](#).

COVID-19 tests are free and available to everyone. NHI numbers are used to report on the test and track who is getting tested, and having this handy can speed up the testing process when people present for a swab. NHI numbers can be found on hospital letters, prescriptions or prescription receipts or copy of a past test result. The Ministry of Health has also established a new, free-call number to find out 0800 855 066. People do not need an NHI to receive a test, and people without NHIs will be assigned one. For up-to-date information on all testing locations, please visit the Healthpoint website.

Vaccinations update

Everyone in New Zealand who is 12 years and over are eligible to get a vaccination. This includes everyone, no matter what their immigration status. People can book their vaccines online at Book My Vaccine – www.bookmyvaccine.nz – or by calling the COVID Vaccination Healthline on 0800 28 29 26 from 8am-8pm seven days a week. People do not have to wait for an invitation to book once they are eligible. Interpreters are available for people who ask. Please remember whaanau Maaori and Pacific families can be vaccinated together when one member of the family is eligible to be vaccinated.

Please see the flyer on the last page for details of a vaccination and swabbing clinic at Wharekawa Marae on the 2 October 2021 between 9.30am and 2pm.

Pacific people can also book vaccinations through K’aute Pasifika Trust by calling or texting 022 318 7151 or emailing Robert.lavei@kautepasifika.co.nz.

Travel across alert level boundaries

From 11:59pm on Thursday 23 September, people travelling from Alert Level 3 to Alert Level 2 must carry either evidence of a negative COVID-19 test or a medical certificate confirming no COVID-19 symptoms and that a COVID-19 test was not possible. They must be tested or be examined within 7 days of crossing the Alert Level boundary. The Ministry of Health has advised that healthcare workers (excluding pharmacy) are not required to provide proof of a test in the last 7 days when they travel across the boundary to commute to or from work or to provide care. Healthcare workers crossing an Alert Level boundary for personal reasons, will need to apply for an exemption.

Permits for travel across alert level boundaries are not issued by the Public Health Unit. A list of permitted reasons to cross boundaries is available here: <https://covid19.govt.nz/travel/permitted-travel-at-different-alert-levels/personal-travel-across-an-alert-level-boundary/#if-your-personal-travel-is-permitted>
Applications to cross boundaries can be made here: <https://personaltravelexemption.covid19.govt.nz/s>

MIQ room releases

The pause on MIQ room releases lifted on September 20 at 9am. Rooms continue to be released for September, October, November and December. The virtual lobby is available here: <https://www.miq.govt.nz/travel-to-new-zealand/secure-your-place-in-managed-isolation/the-managed-isolation-booking-system/virtual-lobby/>

Kia kaha Te Wiki o Te Reo Maaori



Hinemoerangi Ngatai Tangirua (Maaori Equity Public Health Advisor – COVID, pictured right) and Paraone Payne (second year House Officer, pictured left) led Waikato Public Health unit in celebrating Te Wiki o Te Reo Maaori with daily Te Reo Maaori teaching sessions. These practical sessions taught common

phrases and conversational skills that can be used in day-to-day mahi.

There are some excellent resources on the Te Wiki o Te Reo Maori page here:

<https://www.tetaurawhiri.govt.nz/events/te-wiki-o-te-reo-maori/>

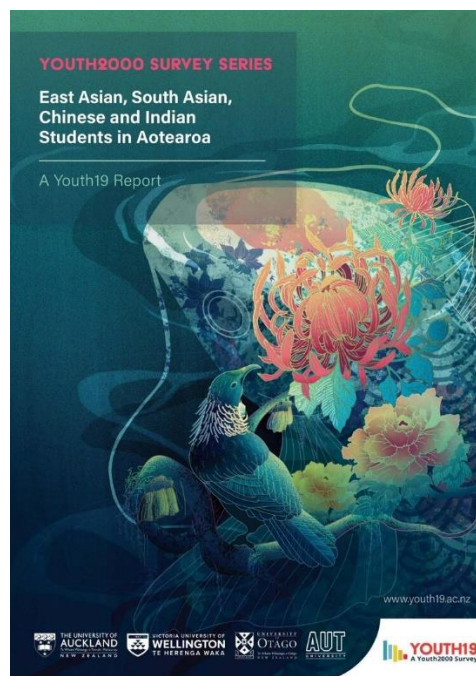
Welcome back Felicity, Bella and Reena

Bella Tuau (Health Protection Officer) and Reena Narayan (Communicable Diseases Support Officer) went into Auckland to support our colleagues at the Auckland Regional Public Health Service for three weeks. Dr Felicity Dumble (Clinical Director, Waikato Public Health Unit) also went to Auckland to support their staff for a week.

We want to acknowledge the collective effort of all those responding to the current outbreak, including those in Primary Care, non-government organisations and in District Health Boards. Waikato Public Health Unit has been working closely with colleagues in Auckland throughout this surge, in addition to managing our own workload across Coromandel, Hauraki and Waikato. Recently, we have stood up a team of staff to support Auckland virtually from the Waikato.

Health and Wellbeing in Asian students report

This month, a new report was published on the health and wellbeing of students of East Asian, South Asian, Chinese and Indian descent living in Aotearoa. The report draws on data from the Youth19 Rangatahi Smart Survey (Youth19). More than 7000 young people in Aotearoa New Zealand were surveyed in Youth19 including 26% who identified with an Asian ethnic group. The full report is available here: <https://www.youth19.ac.nz/publications/asian-students-report>



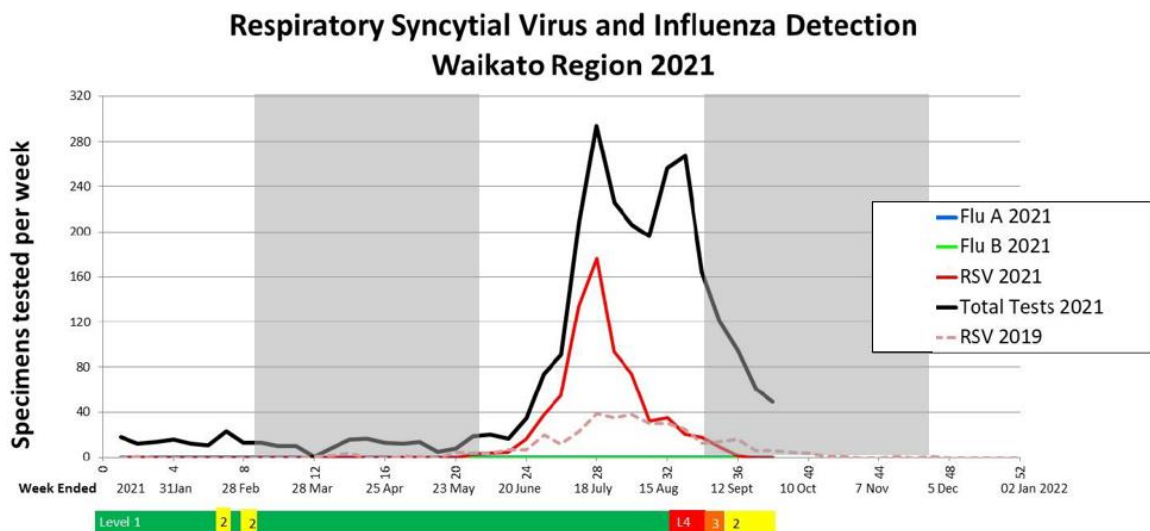
Calving season

With the advent of Spring comes calving season. This is a peak risk time for spreading enteric diseases. Good hygiene practices at the farm are important, and include proper hand hygiene and wearing gloves while working with cattle, particularly around calving. Some enteric illnesses are notifiable to the Public Health Unit. Please see the full list of notifiable diseases here:

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/notifiable-diseases>

Respiratory Virus Update

As of 28 September 2021, no further cases of COVID-19 had been found in the Waikato community and other viruses have also declined. There are no cases of Respiratory Syncytial virus (RSV). The grey shading denotes different seasons (Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter).



Notifiable diseases – September 2021 compared to September 2020 (Waikato DHB)

¹Number of cases. Source Waikato DHB.

²Waikato Year to Date (YTD) count as a proportion of national data.

Medical Officers of Health: Felicity Dumble – Richard Wall – Richard Vipond – Richard Hoskins – Geoff Cramp
(COVID-19 support)

After hours:

MOoH: 021 359 650

HPO: 021 999 521

If there is no answer, please contact Waikato Hospital's switchboard 07 839 8899 and ask for the on-call MOoH.

During office hours:

Population Health (MOoH or HPO): (07) 838 2569

Notifications: 07 838 2569 ext. 22041 or 22020

Notifications outside Hamilton: 0800 800 977

Fax: 07 838 2382

Email: notifiablediseases@waikatodhb.health.nz

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**DRIVE THROUGH
COVID-19 VACCINATION
& SWABBING CLINIC**

WITH TE KOROWAI HAUORA O HAURAKI

**SATURDAY
2ND OF
OCTOBER
2021**

**WHAREKAWA
MARAЕ,
CNR OF RATA & EAST
COAST RD,
KAIAUA.**

**9:30AM-
2:00PM**

***NO BOOKINGS REQUIRED,
ALL WELCOME***

