

Whānau Panui

COVID-19/Coronavirus

21 January 2021

Kia ora e te whānau

We are seeing the rapid spread of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 overseas, we need to prepare our response in case of a community outbreak in Aotearoa. Although Omicron appears to be less severe than other variants, we know it spreads more easily. The expectation is that in an Omicron community outbreak, Aotearoa will see higher daily numbers of COVID-19 cases than we have seen before, and we need to reduce pressure on the health system as much as possible.

Yesterday the Prime Minister announced Government's Omicron preparedness plan and the following actions have been decided:

- The Orange traffic light setting for New Zealand will remain in place (with Tai Tokerau also having moved from Red to Orange at 11.59pm last night).
- As soon as community transmission of Omicron is confirmed, Aotearoa will move to the Red setting – this will likely happen within 24 to 48 hours of detection.

Te Roopu Taurima needs to be prepared:

All office-based kaimahi are asked to take laptops home at the end of each day in case they have to work from home. All managers have been asked to ensure they have an up-to-date contact list of their kaimahi. Specific measures will be implemented for kaimahi deemed to be essential workers and needing to work in the offices.

Guidelines for Te Roopu Taurima in the Traffic Light System

Te Roopu Taurima's Guidelines or SOPs (Standard Operating Procedures) remain operational with no changes at this time. A summarised operational table is available in all whare and on our [website](#).

How can you be prepared?

The [Unite Against COVID-19 website](#) has great resources to help you and your whānau prepare and stay safe in the event you or someone in your household catches COVID-19. This includes a handy [COVID-19 Readiness Checklist](#) and tips on how to ensure you're able to look after yourself if you're required to isolate.

What more can you do to keep safe?

- Stay home if you're unwell and contact the COVID-19 Healthline on 0800 3585453 for advice.
- Wear a **face covering** when you're in public or a mandated area.
- Maintain **physical distancing** of at least 1 metre.
- Ensure you're maintaining good **hand hygiene**.
- Continue to use the **COVID-19 tracer app**.
- Arrange your **booster shot** as soon as you're eligible (four months from your second vaccination dose) through [BookMyVaccine](#).

Additional Helpful Websites

[Karawhiua channels](#), and the [Te Puni Kōkiri 'COVID-19 Information for Māori' portal](#).

If you have any questions or concerns, you can contact [Manawhakahaere/CEO](#), Tania Thomas 0272912084 or tania.thomas@terooputaurima.org.nz

Kia maia, kia manawanui, kia kaha tātou ki te tiaki i a tātou ano
Be strong, be resilient, and let's look after one another

