

Whānau Panui

COVID-19/Coronavirus

17 February 2022

Kia ora e te whānau

On the evening of **Tuesday 15 February**, the Government shifted the Country into the Phase 2 setting of the Omicron response, this includes the implementation of a Close Contact Exemption Scheme, [click here](#) for more information. The scheme was established with the aim of keeping critical supply chains/services running. This means that 'Close Contacts' can keep going to work instead of isolating if they return a negative rapid antigen test (RAT).

Te Roopu Taurima is registered as a critical service under the Scheme. Once the Scheme is fully implemented, if a kaimahi becomes a close contact, specific information will be provided for them to have a rapid antigen test done, [click here](#) for more information.

Rapid Antigen Testing (RAT)

There are over 500 pharmacies in Aotearoa who are mandated to perform the tests for essential workers, so our kaimahi will be able to get the test done at a pharmacy near them.

Booster Shots

We are working with the kaimahi who are eligible now to have their booster, an extension to Thursday 24 February has been granted. All other kaimahi that are not yet eligible, due to timing, will have up to six months from the date of their 2nd dose to receive the booster. If you are eligible, please think about getting your booster shot done also.

Te Roopu Taurima Isolation Protocols

We have updated our recently developed **Isolation Protocols**, which are a resource to guide our kaimahi and managers should a Covid-19 case or close contact event occur for a tāngata and/or kaimahi. The Service Manager for the region/whare will coordinate communication with whānau, including a discussion of what support, if any, you can provide during self-isolation period. Our existing Covid-19 Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) will continue alongside the Isolation Protocol. The summarised SOP operational table is available in all whare and on our [website](#). **Remember to contact the whare or the manager before going to the whare**, so safe planning can be arranged.

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

Remember to check out the [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

