

Whānau Panui

COVID-19/Coronavirus

25 February 2022

Kia ora e te whānau

Aotearoa is still in the **Red Traffic Light** level and has moved into “Phase 3” of the Omicron response at 11.59pm last night. Te Roopu Taurima kaimahi is registered under the **Critical Workers Scheme** in Phase 3 [click here](#) for more information.

What does this mean for Te Roopu Taurima?

In Phase 3 the focus is on safely managing Covid-19 at home or in our case, at the whare. In a whare if a tangata or a kaimahi tests positive for Covid they will need to self-isolate for 10 days. They can come out of self-isolation after 10 days, they do not need a negative test. The same applies to kaimahi who do not work in whare.

In Phase 3, there are now two types of contacts, **Close Contacts and Household Contacts**. If you live with someone who has tested positive for Covid-19, you are a **Household Contact**. Kaimahi who work in our whare will be defined as **Household Contacts**. As a critical worker under the Close Contact Exemption Scheme kaimahi are still able to go to work if they have no symptoms and return a **negative Rapid Antigen Test (RAT)** before going to work, this also applies to non whare staff. Kaimahi are asked to keep testing every day until there are no confirmed cases of Covid-19 in the whare they work in.

A **Close Contact** is when you have come into contact with someone who has tested positive for Covid-19 but are not part of your household. You do not have to self-isolate and only people with Covid and household contacts are required to isolate.

Testing Positive for Covid 19

If you test positive for Covid 19 please click here for advice <https://covid19.health.nz/advice/positive> for important steps you need to take to protect yourself and others. Our managers will engage with whanau of tangata where a case or close contact event occurs in your loved ones whare. **All kaimahi supporting Covid positive tāngata will be provided with the right PPE gear for their and tāngata safety.**

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.

Omicron

As more of our kaimahi and tāngata become infected with Covid-19 we are experiencing **staffing shortages**. Management extend a huge thanks to those kaimahi who continue to demonstrate pride in their work and a willingness to support tangata through this challenging time. Some kaimahi work in more than one whare during a week, but please be assured that they will come to work only after returning a negative RAT result if they have had a close contact with a positive case in another whare. Your support and understanding in such situations is greatly appreciated.

Isolation Protocols

Te Roopu Taurima's **Isolation Protocol** document on Sharepoint has been updated. The document provides key information for managers to support kaimahi and for kaimahi working with tāngata who have been confirmed as being infected with Covid-19 or close contacts. This protocol should be applied alongside our current **Infection Prevention and Control Manual and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)**.

More important information on the next page.....



Boosters

If you are eligible we do recommend you get your Booster vaccination. You don't have to wait the full six months to get your Booster, you can get it three months after your primary vaccination doses.

Under the latest Vaccination Mandate Order all Te Roopu Taurima kaimahi are required to get their Booster. Guidelines also require manuhiri (Visitors) and Contractors entering Te Roopu Taurima sites to also be vaccinated with the Booster.

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