

Whānau Panui

COVID-19/Coronavirus

11 March 2022

Kia ora e te whānau

Aotearoa is still in the **Red Traffic Light** level and the “Phase 3” stage of the Omicron response at 11.59pm. All Te Roopu Taurima kaimahi are registered as **Critical Workers** in Phase 3 [click here](#) for more information.

Changes to Isolation Requirements:

As from 11.59pm on Friday 11 March, the isolation period for Covid-19 cases reduced **from 10 to 7 days as long as the person has no symptoms**. Therefore, kaimahi who are on day 7 of their isolation on Friday 11 March are free to return to work. The rules for Te Roopu Taurima as Critical Workers remains the same, because they are critical workers they do not have to isolate if they are a Household Contact and can work if they have a negative test result.

Tangata who have recovered no longer need to self-isolate if they become a household contact within 90 days after having the virus. This is an increase from the current 28 days.

What does this mean for Te Roopu Taurima?

In Phase 3 the focus remains 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 the new self-isolation period is 7 days. They can come out of self-isolation after 7 days, if they have no symptoms.

Kaimahi and tāngata who currently, or recently, have had Covid but are due their boosters should get their boosters 28-days after they come out of isolation.

Whānau are invited to contact the manager of the whare that their whānau member lives in for more information on the management and safety of tāngata and their whare.

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.

Te Roopu Taurima has been keeping its contracted agencies regularly updated. We have been working with other Disability Service Providers to assist with cover, where possible; noting, they too are also experiencing short staffing impacts. We have also been engaging with Bureau agencies and Public Health to walk alongside us during this journey, where they have capacity to support.

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



Isolation Protocols

Te Roopu Taurima **Isolation Protocol** documentation 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 is applied alongside our current **Infection Prevention and Control Manual** and **Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)**.

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.

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