

1 September 2020

# Kia ora Tokoroa business community

**You will be aware that a healthcare worker from the Tokoroa Family Health Centre has been confirmed as COVID-19 positive. Waikato DHB Public Health is investigating the likely source for transmission and has confirmed contact with the Tokoroa household where three earlier cases were identified following close contact with an Auckland case.**

We understand there may be concern following this news and would like to assure the community that the health centre operated using hygiene controls and safety precautions above what was required under Alert Level 2 to minimise risk for patients and staff.

Public Health is now contact tracing with a focus on any interactions from 25-27 August to identify any close contacts of this case. Anyone who has not been contacted but who has concerns should contact Healthline or attend one of the drive-thru testing centres we have set up in Tokoroa. We continue to urge anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms to seek a test.

For the protection of your workplace and the community – if you are an employer, please provide time off work for your staff member:

- If they are sick. Encourage them to take a COVID-19 test if they have cold or flu like symptoms and get better before returning to work
- If they come to you and have concerns about their risk of COVID-19, allow them time off work to visit one of the COVID-19 testing centres or encourage them ring Healthline (0800 358 5453) - they will tell them if a swab is needed and what to do next
- If staff choose to have a test and are asymptomatic, they do not have to stay off work until the results
- If your staff don't have symptoms and have not been in contact with a COVID-19 case then they don't need to be tested.

We will have two COVID-19 testing sites operating in Tokoroa this week as we expect an increase in demand for testing. Testing is FREE. No appointment is needed. They are drive-thru testing sites and people need to be prepared to wait and do not get out of the car.

We will be at:

Testing location	Times and dates
<b>Tokoroa Hospital</b> Maraetai Road, Tokoroa	10am - 3pm Monday 31 August, Tuesday 1 September, Wednesday 2 September, Thursday 3 September and Friday 4 September
<b>South Waikato Pacific Islands Community Services (SWPIC)</b> 1 Maraetai Road, Tokoroa <i>In partnership with SWPIC</i>	10am - 3pm Monday 31 August, Tuesday 1 September, Wednesday 2 September, Thursday 3 September and Friday 4 September

For assessment and testing locations check our website [www.waikatodhb.health.nz/cbac](http://www.waikatodhb.health.nz/cbac)  
For COVID-19 health advice and information, call **Healthline 0800 358 5453**

Any Waikato DHB queries please contact Trevor Ecclestone, 021 904 542

*Thank you for playing your part to eliminate COVID-19.*

*Be kind to each other, look after yourself, look after your community.*

*The Waikato DHB health team*

# Golden rules for business at Alert Level 2

(further information available at [covid19.govt.nz/business](https://covid19.govt.nz/business))

## Reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission at work

- All businesses can operate provided they meet public health requirements
- Talk with your staff to identify risks and ways to manage them
- Ask everyone, workers, contractors and customers, with cold or flu-like symptoms to stay away from your premises and encourage them to get a swab



### Wash your hands. Wash your hands. Wash your hands

Regularly wash your hands with soap and water, then dry, or use hand sanitiser.



### Keep your distance

Keep groups of customers at least 1 metre apart, or 2 metres for retail businesses.



### Keep track of contacts

Businesses need to display a QR code and have an alternative contact tracing system for customers not using the NZ COVID Tracer app.



### Cough or sneeze into your elbow or a tissue

If tissues are used, discard into rubbish bin and wash hands immediately.



### Wearing a face covering or mask helps

Face coverings are strongly encouraged if you are in close contact with others



### Reduce the number of shared surfaces, and regularly disinfect them

Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects, such as doorknobs.



### Stay home and away from others if you feel unwell

We can't emphasise the hand hygiene message enough to all whānau in the Waikato. Washing your hands continues to be one of the easiest ways to keep yourself safe. Continue to cough or sneeze into your elbow or a tissue, clean surfaces, and stay home if you're sick. Maintaining physical distancing is an important way we can protect ourselves and wearing a face cover or mask helps.

The same actions that also protect you and your whānau from COVID-19 will also keep you safe from the flu, colds, and other infectious diseases.

## Looking after your mental health and wellbeing

During this time, it's important not only to look after your physical health but also your mental health. It's completely normal to be feeling a wide range of emotions, including being worried, anxious and scared. The bravest thing you can do is speak to someone about how you're feeling. Reach out to someone close to you or call/text 1737 for free support any time.

For more information on mental wellbeing visit [covid19.govt.nz/mental-wellbeing](https://covid19.govt.nz/mental-wellbeing)

For updates and more information on keeping yourself safe, visit [Covid19.govt.nz](https://Covid19.govt.nz)