

February / Peepuere 2022

Public Health Bulletin

Teena koutou katoa and Gong Xi Fa Cai - Happy Lunar New Year. We hope you enjoy the latest edition of the Public Health Bulletin.

Information for employees in critical healthcare services during an Omicron outbreak

The Ministry of Health has released guidelines for critical healthcare workers at each phase of the response to Omicron (Stamp it Out, Flatten the Curve and Manage it). The definitions and guidelines are available here: <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-information-health-professionals/guidance-critical-health-services-during-omicron-outbreak> The Public Health Unit does not author or administer application to these guidelines. Private healthcare service providers should seek clarification and advice directly from their organisation's Infection Prevention Control team in the first instance or directly from the Ministry of Health.

COVID-19 Testing

As of 2 February 2022, anyone with cold, flu or COVID-19 symptoms are being advised to call Healthline, their GP or iwi health provider for guidance on whether they should get a COVID-19 test. PCR (Polymerase chain reaction) tests are still in use. The latest guidelines for who should get a test were revised on the 16 December 2021 are available here: <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-response-planning/covid-19-testing-strategy-and-testing-guidance>.

Vaccinations update

To help protect yourself against COVID-19, get your booster shot. These can be had 4 months after your second dose. Tamariki aged 5 to 11 can now be vaccinated against COVID-19.

Resources in Asian languages

The Asian Network Incorporated (TANI) has developed resources about vaccinating children and about boosters in several Asian languages including Burmese, Chinese, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, and Vietnamese. These are available here: <https://www.asiannetwork.org.nz/news/covid19-information/>

My vaccine pass

My Vaccine Pass is an official record of your COVID-19 vaccination status for use in Aotearoa New Zealand. People who do not use a smartphone can request two free official records of your COVID-19 vaccination status through the My Covid Record website. <https://covid19.govt.nz/covid-19-vaccines/covid-19-vaccination-certificates/my-vaccine-pass/>

You can also call 0800 222 478 or visit a participating vaccination site to request a pass or certificate. To update NHI information, such as your name, call 0800 28 29 26 and select option 4.

Event: Te Tiriti-based futures and Anti-Racism Event

There is a virtual, 10 day event discussing Te Tiriti-based futures and anti-racism. This event will begin with a one-day hui on 21 March 2020, Race Relations Day, hosted by Te Ruunanga o Ngaati Whaatua in Taamaki Makaurau, and then run virtually between 22-30th March. It is free to register. Topics include institutional racism and anti-racism, decolonisation, building Te Tiriti-based futures, and transforming our constitution. Further information is available here: <https://www.tiritibasedfutures.info/>



Community-led culture-centered prevention of family violence and sexual violence report

This report, published by Massey University, presents the voices of those at the margins of diverse communities (ageing, disability, migrant, and rainbow) on family violence and sexual violence. The full report is available here: <https://carecca.nz/wp-content/uploads/sites/68/2021/11/CARE-JVBU-Violence-prevention-needs-of-diverse-communities-Report.pdf>

Community-led culture-centered prevention of family violence and sexual violence

Mohan Dutta, Pooja Jayan, Christine Elers, Md Mahbubur Rahman, Francine Whittfield, Phoebe Elers, Selina Metuamate, Venessa Pokaia, De'Anne Jackson, Bronwyn Kerr, Shakila Hashim, Negin Nematollahi, Christina Teikmata-Tito, Jie Liu, Ihaia Raharuhi, Andee Zorn, Stephen Bray, Akbar Shah Bin Mohd Sharif, Sarah Holdaway, Claire Kake-O'Meara
Centre for Culture-centered Approach to Research and Evaluation (CARE)
School of Communication, Journalism & Marketing, Massey University



Cyanobacteria and Lake Ngaroto

The Public Health warning issued on 30th December 2021 for Lake Ngaroto, has now been escalated to extreme risk. This is due to a highly significant rise in cyanobacteria and Escherichia coli (E. coli) levels. The cyanobacteria currently in the lake produces toxins which are extremely harmful and may cause serious illnesses or death.

It is strongly advised to not undertake any recreational use of the lake whereby skin contact or ingestion of

the water may occur. Recreation uses to avoid include kayaking, fishing, boating, swimming, or physical activities around the lake. If people have been to Lake Ngaroto recently and have symptoms such as a rash, skin and eye irritation; allergy symptoms such as hayfever and asthma; or possibly stomach upsets including diarrhoea and vomiting, they should seek medical attention. These symptoms may not appear until some time after being at Lake Ngaroto.



Medical Officers of Health: Felicity Dumble – Richard Wall – Richard Vipond – Richard Hoskins

After hours:

MOoH: 021 359 650

HPO: 021 999 521

If there is no answer, please contact Waikato Hospital's switchboard 07 839 8899 and ask for the on-call MOoH.

During office hours:

Population Health (MOoH or HPO): (07) 838 2569

Notifications: 07 838 2569 ext. 22041 or 22020

Notifications outside Hamilton: 0800 800 977

Fax: 07 838 2382

Email: notifiablediseases@waikatodhb.health.nz

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Notifiable diseases – January 2022 compared to January 2021 (Waikato DHB)

Notifiable diseases (Waikato DHB) - Period: January 2021 to January 2022

¹Number of cases. Source: Waikato DHB.

²Waikato YTD count as a proportion of national data.

Disease name	Waikato ¹				YTD		
	2021	2022	Change	2021-2022	Waikato	National	% ²
Botulism	0	0	0	-	0	0	-
Brucellosis	0	0	0	-	0	0	-
Campylobacteriosis	71	56	-15	▼	56	586	10
Chikungunya fever	0	0	0	-	0	1	0
Cholera	0	0	0	-	0	1	0
COVID-19	4	141	137	▲	141	2,558	6
Cryptosporidiosis	4	2	-2	▼	2	15	13
Decompression sickness	0	0	0	-	0	0	-
Dengue fever	0	0	0	-	0	1	0
Diarrhoeic shellfish poisoning	0	0	0	-	0	0	-
Diphtheria	0	0	0	-	0	0	-
Gastroenteritis - unknown cause	2	0	-2	▼	0	8	0
Gastroenteritis / foodborne intoxication	1	0	-1	▼	0	31	0
Giardiasis	8	7	-1	▼	7	41	17
Haemophilus influenzae type b	0	0	0	-	0	0	-
Hepatitis A	0	0	0	-	0	2	0
Hepatitis B	0	0	0	-	0	2	0
Hepatitis C	0	0	0	-	0	5	0
Hepatitis NOS	0	0	0	-	0	0	-
Hydatid disease	0	0	0	-	0	1	0
Invasive pneumococcal disease	5	1	-4	▼	1	25	4
Latent tuberculosis infection	0	0	0	-	0	6	0
Lead Poisoning	2	1	-1	▼	1	19	5
Legionellosis	0	0	0	-	0	18	0
Leprosy	0	0	0	-	0	1	0
Leptospirosis	0	3	3	▲	3	16	19
Listeriosis	0	0	0	-	0	4	0
Listeriosis - perinatal	0	0	0	-	0	2	0
Malaria	0	0	0	-	0	0	-
Measles	0	0	0	-	0	2	0
Meningococcal disease	0	0	0	-	0	3	0
Mumps	0	1	1	▲	1	4	25
Murine Typhus	0	0	0	-	0	0	-
Paratyphoid Fever	0	0	0	-	0	1	0
Pertussis	2	0	-2	▼	0	0	-
Q fever	0	0	0	-	0	0	-
Rheumatic fever - initial attack	0	0	0	-	0	5	0
Rheumatic fever - recurrent attack	0	0	0	-	0	0	-
Rickettsial disease	0	0	0	-	0	0	-
Ross River virus infection	0	0	0	-	0	0	-
Salmonellosis	0	6	6	▲	6	62	10
Shigellosis	0	0	0	-	0	2	0
Taeniasis	0	0	0	-	0	1	0
Tetanus	0	0	0	-	0	0	-
Toxic shellfish poisoning	0	0	0	-	0	0	-
Tuberculosis disease - new case	0	2	2	▲	2	26	8
Tuberculosis disease - relapse or reactivation	0	0	0	-	0	0	-
Tuberculosis infection - on preventive treatment	0	0	0	-	0	0	-
Typhoid fever	0	0	0	-	0	0	-
VTEC/STEC infection	0	2	2	▲	2	107	2
Yersiniosis	0	7	7	▲	7	114	6

¹Number of cases. Source Waikato DHB.

²Waikato Year to Date (YTD) count as a proportion of national data.