

## Waikato Public Health Bulletin

Tēnā koutou katoa. We hope you enjoy this edition of the Waikato Public Health Bulletin.

### Have a safe-as summer

Summer has arrived, yet COVID-19 is surging, with the current wave set to peak around the Christmas period. The Ministry of Health has developed the “[Have a safe-as summer](#)” media campaign designed to reduce the spread of COVID-19, while allowing whānau to make the most of summer.



Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa  
New Zealand Government

Unite  
against  
COVID-19  
**Te Whatu Ora**  
Health New Zealand

Messaging is centred around summer health preparedness. Key messages include:

- Seek help early. Some options include Healthline 0800 611 116, COVID-19 health advice 0800 358 54 53, and

COVID-19 disability helpline 0800 11 12 13.

- Follow the [latest COVID-19 public health advice](#).
- Hold gatherings outdoors.
- Keep up to date with vaccines and routine medical appointments.
- Use Bluetooth tracing for the NZ COVID Tracer app.
- Have an isolation plan while you are travelling.

Further information and advice can be found at <https://covid19.govt.nz/prepare-and-stay-safe/have-a-safe-as-summer/>.

### Cyanobacteria

Lake Rotokauri has had a health warning issued due to high cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) concentrations, joining the list of Lake Whangape, Waikare and Kainui. Ingestion and skin contact with water from these lakes should be avoided. Cyanobacteria algal blooms are more common in hot summer weather.

Symptoms of poisoning are variable, depending on dose and type of toxin. Common symptoms include rash, skin and eye irritation, asthma exacerbation, and GI upset. Though not a notifiable disease, the Waikato Public Health Service would appreciate being informed of any illness thought to be caused by recreational water by emailing details to [health.protection@waikatodhb.health.nz](mailto:health.protection@waikatodhb.health.nz) or calling 07 838 2569.

Up-to-date information about cyanobacterial concentrations, other environmental

measures, and warnings can be found at <https://www.lawa.org.nz/explore-data/waikato-region/>.

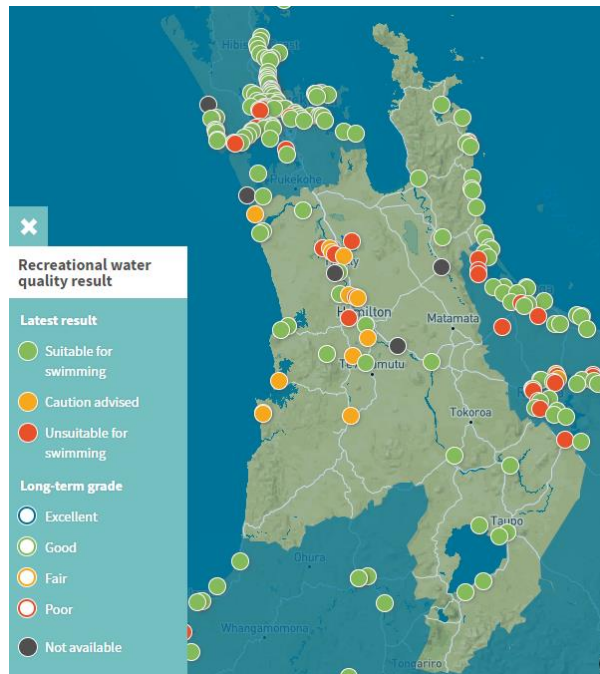


Figure 1: Swimming warnings for recreational water in the Waikato

## Legionellosis

An increase in the rate of legionellosis is expected at this time of year due to increased exposure to compost and potting mix as part of gardening activities. Legionella bacteria are ubiquitous in New Zealand environments, with *L. pneumophila* being mostly associated with warm-water systems and *L. longbeachae* with compost/potting mix.

Nationally, there have been 34 cases in the 3 weeks to 29 November 2022. This is 1.89 times higher than the same period in 2021. In Waikato we had 4 cases notified in November, up from 1 case in October.

Legionellosis is notifiable on suspicion to a Medical Officer of Health, though is not one of the [diseases that we would expect an urgent \(out of working hours\) notification](#) without other high-risk circumstances.

## Notifiable diseases – Trends

Notifiable diseases (Waikato District) - period to: December 2022

\*Stats NZ estimated 8.69% of the population resided in Waikato in 2021. Red indicates over-representation of Waikato

Disease name	Waikato cases per month			Cases per month over the last year (mean)		
	October	November	Trend	Waikato	National	% Waikato*
Botulism	0	0	-	0.0	0.0	-
Brucellosis	0	0	-	0.0	0.0	-
Campylobacteriosis	47	69	▲	47.2	488.6	10
COVID-19	4,936	8,585	▲	12,837.1	160,387.8	8
Cryptosporidiosis	17	4	▼	7.6	50.4	15
Decompression sickness	0	0	-	0.0	0.2	0
Dengue fever	0	0	-	0.0	1.8	0
Diphtheria	0	0	-	0.0	0.2	0
Gastroenteritis - unknown cause	1	2	▲	0.7	14.2	5
Gastroenteritis / foodborne intoxication	3	10	▲	3.5	12.9	27
Giardiasis	6	9	▲	7.4	57.3	13
Haemophilus influenzae type b	0	0	-	0.0	0.2	0
Hepatitis A	1	0	▼	0.4	4.0	10
Hepatitis B	0	0	-	0.1	1.3	8
Hepatitis C	0	0	-	0.0	2.1	0
Hepatitis NOS	0	0	-	0.0	0.1	0
Hydatid disease	0	0	-	0.0	0.3	0
Invasive pneumococcal disease	5	11	▲	5.3	52.7	10
Latent tuberculosis infection	0	1	▲	0.6	8.8	7
Lead Poisoning	0	0	-	0.0	0.0	-
Legionellosis	1	4	▲	1.8	19.6	7
Leprosy	0	0	-	0.1	0.4	25
Leptospirosis	3	2	▼	1.9	10.2	19
Listeriosis	1	0	▼	0.3	2.6	12
Listeriosis - perinatal	0	0	-	0.0	0.7	0
Malaria	0	0	-	0.1	1.3	8
Measles	0	0	-	0.0	0.0	-
Meningococcal disease	0	1	▲	0.3	6.1	5
Mumps	0	0	-	0.0	0.1	0
Murine Typhus	0	0	-	0.2	0.4	50
Pertussis	1	1	-	0.3	1.5	20
Q fever	0	0	-	0.0	0.0	-
Rheumatic fever - initial attack	0	0	-	0.7	6.6	11
Rheumatic fever - recurrent attack	0	0	-	0.1	0.3	33
Salmonellosis	11	5	▼	5.3	61.6	9
Shigellosis	1	1	-	0.5	5.1	10
Taeniasis	0	0	-	0.0	0.3	0
Tetanus	0	0	-	0.0	0.0	-
Tuberculosis disease - new case	1	6	▲	2.5	23.4	11
Tuberculosis disease - relapse or reactivation	0	0	-	0.0	0.5	0
Tuberculosis infection - on preventive treatment	0	0	-	0.0	0.3	0
Typhoid fever	1	1	-	0.3	2.0	15
VTEC/STEC infection	10	9	▼	8.8	84.3	10
Yersiniosis	9	12	▲	8.3	107.9	8

**Medical Officers of Health:** Felicity Dumble, Richard Wall, Richard Vipond, and 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](mailto:notifiablediseases@waikatodhb.health.nz)**Did you enjoy our bulletin? Please share it with your colleagues**Previous Bulletins at: [www.waikatodhb.health.nz/for-health-professionals/public-health-bulletins/](http://www.waikatodhb.health.nz/for-health-professionals/public-health-bulletins/)