

June-July/Pipirii-Huræ 2021

## Public Health Bulletin

Ngā mihi o Matariki, te tau hou Māori.

### COVID-19 Update

You will be aware that an Australian traveller from Sydney visited Wellington between Saturday June 19 and Monday June 21. They tested positive for COVID-19 upon their return to Australia.

Case investigation identified a number of locations of interest in the Wellington region and people who visited these locations around the same time have been asked to register with Healthline (0800 358 5453). The Public Health Units and National Investigation and Tracing Centre (NITC) have been following up with 2710 contacts who registered to ensure appropriate isolation and testing guidance is received and followed.

We are continuing to advise people who live in Wellington, or who were in the region between Saturday 19 June and Monday 21 June to check the locations of interest page [here](#).

### Australia New Zealand Quarantine Free Travel

Following an initial pause on all Australia New Zealand quarantine-free travel, quarantine-free travel has since resumed from Tasmania, ACT, Victoria and South Australia. Quarantine-free travel from New South Wales, Northern Territory, Queensland and Western Australia currently remains paused.

Negative pre-departure tests will be required to enter New Zealand. Learn more about pre-departure testing requirements [here](#).

If you have been in Australia recently, we ask that you please continue to check the locations of [interest page](#) for the states or territories you have visited. If you have been at a location of interest, please isolate and call Healthline ([0800 358 5453](tel:08003585453)) for further advice on testing. This is important as requirements for isolation and testing for New Zealanders who have been in a location of interest in Australia may differ to the advice provided on the Australian states or territories web page.

**Please ask any one who thinks they may be a contact to isolate and call Healthline on 0800 358 5453**

### Update on IT systems

Thank you for your patience and support over the last month while we have continued to work through our IT issues following the cybersecurity attack. We are continuing with usual PHU mahi and an update on how you can contact us is below:

#### Our phones are working:

##### During office hours

Public Health Unit MOoH/HPO: (07) 838 2569

##### Notifications

07 838 2569 ext. 22041 or 22020

From outside Hamilton/Kirikiri: 0800 800 977

##### After hours

On call MOoH: 021 359 650

On Call HPO: 021 999 521

**Notifications normally made through your primary care operating systems (eg:BPAC)** are still being received. This includes lead notifications, poisoning from chemical contamination of the environment and hazardous substances, injuries or disease. These notifications will reach us via the usual surveillance system notification process.

**All lab results are now electronically accessible.** Pathlab direct laboratory notifications are working, hospital lab direct laboratory notifications are not, however, the hospital lab will continue to notify us directly of any positive results (communicable disease and lead levels) that require health protection follow up.

#### The public facing Waikato DHB

website [waikatodhb.health.nz](http://waikatodhb.health.nz) is operational.

Management pathways, flowcharts and notification forms for a number of notifiable and communicable diseases are available here.

#### Our generic notifiable diseases email

[notifyablediseases@waikatodhb.health.nz](mailto:notifyablediseases@waikatodhb.health.nz) is now operational.

FAX notification **is not** currently an option.

If in doubt please liaise directly with the on call MOoH. Tēnā koutou.

## Whakamihi Pania and Reena

The Public Health Unit would like to congratulate and thank two members of our PHU whānau, Pania Te Haate and Reena Narayan for achieving significant milestones this year. Reena is a Communicable Disease Support Officer and has been with the PHU for 15 years. Pania is our Health Protection Manager and has been with the PHU for 10 years. We are incredibly lucky to have these amazing wahine working with us.



*Reena and Pania with Bevan the PHU Manager*

## Working Well through challenging times

Our Waikato PHU Healthy Workplaces team works closely with local businesses to implement a workplace wellbeing framework called WorkWell. WorkWell was originally designed by Toi Te Ora Public Health Service; our PHU have been Waikato WorkWell providers since 2015.

Our WorkWell advisors mentor and support work places to implement staff well-being initiatives designed to create happier, healthier and more productive work places.

As changes are implemented and standards are achieved, workplaces move through the accreditation stages of bronze, silver and gold.

Hamilton City Council recently celebrated achieving Bronze Standard WorkWell accreditation. The councils WorkWell programme is about creating a safer, healthier, happier and more whānau-friendly workplace. The team has introduced some amazing initiatives including a flexible working programme and a digitalized Wellbeing Hub for employees. Kai pai tō mahi Hamilton City Council.



*Members of Hamilton City Council's WorkWell Committee with support from CEO Richard Briggs and Healthy Workplaces senior advisor, Louise West.*

## Alcohol Involved ED presentations on Crate Day

'Crate Day' is an unofficial event that occurs annually in New Zealand on the first Saturday of December. It was started by a group of University students in 2005 to celebrate the start of Summer and continues to be a heavily promoted event by some radio stations. Participants are challenged with consuming an entire crate of beer in a 24 hour period. A crate contains 12 large 750ml bottles of beer (a total of 300g of alcohol if an individual consumes it all).

The Waikato Public Health Unit Alcohol Team has been concerned about the degree of alcohol related harm that occurs as a result of 'Crate Day' events. Our Public Health Advisory and Development team examined the pattern of alcohol related presentations to five Waikato DHB Emergency Departments (Waikato, Tokoroa, Thames, Te kuiti and Taumarunui) on Crate Day 2019 and 2020.

The findings were:

- There are almost twice as many alcohol related ED presentations on 'Crate Day' than there is on other Saturdays in December
- On 'Crate Day' the busiest time for ED alcohol-related presentations is between Saturday 7pm and Sunday 3am
- Alcohol related-harm (measured by presentation's to ED on 'Crate Day') disproportionately impacts those of Māori ethnicity, males, those aged between 20 and 34 years of age and those living in areas of high socioeconomic deprivation
- Those living in areas of low socioeconomic deprivation did not demonstrate the same trend of increased alcohol related presentations to ED on 'Crate Day' as those living in moderate to high areas of socioeconomic deprivation.

The Public Health Unit Alcohol team are concerned about alcohol related harm within our community and will utilise these findings to continue advocating for change that will reduced the negative impacts of alcohol on our whānau and wider community.

## Notifiable diseases – June 2021 compared to June 2020 (Waikato DHB)

Disease name	Waikato <sup>1</sup>				YTD		
	2020	2021	Change	2020-2021	Waikato	National	% <sup>2</sup>
Botulism	0	0	0	-	0	1	0
Brucellosis	0	0	0	-	0	1	0
Campylobacteriosis	22	20	-2	▼	219	2,444	9
COVID-19	0	0	0	-	8	580	1
Cryptosporidiosis	2	3	1	▲	25	201	12
Decompression sickness	0	0	0	-	0	2	0
Dengue fever	0	0	0	-	1	7	14
Gastroenteritis - unknown cause	0	0	0	-	2	94	2
Gastroenteritis / foodborne intoxication	3	1	-2	▼	10	53	19
Giardiasis	9	17	8	▲	78	621	13
Haemophilus influenzae type b	0	0	0	-	0	4	0
Hepatitis A	0	0	0	-	0	5	0
Hepatitis B	0	1	1	▲	2	6	33
Hepatitis C	0	0	0	-	0	23	0
Hepatitis NOS	1	0	-1	▼	3	5	60
Hydatid disease	0	0	0	-	0	2	0
Invasive pneumococcal disease	5	5	0	-	19	182	10
Latent tuberculosis infection	2	0	-2	▼	2	61	3
Lead Poisoning	0	1	1	▲	15	265	6
Legionellosis	0	1	1	▲	4	84	5
Leprosy	0	0	0	-	0	2	0
Leptospirosis	1	0	-1	▼	5	41	12
Listeriosis	0	0	0	-	0	12	0
Listeriosis - perinatal	0	0	0	-	1	3	33
Malaria	0	0	0	-	0	4	0
Measles	0	0	0	-	0	2	0
Meningococcal disease	1	0	-1	▼	0	17	0
Mumps	0	0	0	-	0	10	0
Murine Typhus	0	0	0	-	1	1	100
Pertussis	1	0	-1	▼	3	40	8
Q fever	0	0	0	-	0	1	0
Rheumatic fever - initial attack	2	1	-1	▼	7	51	14
Rheumatic fever - recurrent attack	0	0	0	-	1	6	17
Salmonellosis	3	6	3	▲	48	440	11
Shigellosis	1	0	-1	▼	0	7	0
Taeniasis	0	0	0	-	0	1	0
Tetanus	0	0	0	-	0	1	0
Tuberculosis disease - new case	3	3	0	-	14	151	9
Tuberculosis disease - relapse or reactivation	0	0	0	-	0	8	0
Tuberculosis infection - on preventive treatment	0	0	0	-	0	2	0
Typhoid fever	0	0	0	-	0	2	0
VTEC/STEC infection	4	6	2	▲	63	495	13
Yersiniosis	9	10	1	▲	57	720	8

<sup>1</sup>Number of cases. Source Waikato DHB.

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

**Medical Officers of Health:** Felicity Dumble – Richard Wall – Richard Vipond – Richard Hoskins – Geoff Cramp (COVID-19 support)

**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:**

**Public Health (MOoH or HPO):** (07) 838 2569  
**Notifications outside Hamilton:** 0800 800 977

**Notifications:** 07 838 2569 ext. 22041 or 22020

**Fax:** 07 838 2382      **Email:** [notifiablediseases@waikatodhb.health.nz](mailto:notifiablediseases@waikatodhb.health.nz)

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