

September / Hepetema 2021

## Public Health Bulletin

Teena koutou. We hope you enjoy the latest edition of the Public Health Bulletin.

### COVID-19

All areas in Aotearoa, outside of Auckland, are at Alert Level 2. Thank you all for your continuing mahi during this response. A few updates follow:

#### COVID-19 Testing

Anyone with COVID-19 symptoms, or who have been at a location of interest at the relevant time, or who have been identified as a contact by the contact tracing team should receive a COVID-19 test.

COVID-19 tests are free and available to everyone. NHI numbers are used to report on the test and track who is getting tested, and having this handy can speed up the testing process when people present for a swab. NHI numbers can be found on hospital letters, prescriptions or prescription receipts or copy of a past test result. The Ministry of Health has also established a new, free-call number to find out 0800 855 066. People do not need an NHI to receive a test, and people without NHIs will be assigned one. For up-to-date information on all testing locations, please visit the Healthpoint website.

We have been informed that people have been charged for testing for work reasons. Testing for COVID-19 is free, including for work, except for travel overseas.

#### COVID-19 Vaccination Bookings

Vaccination sites are still up and running. From Wednesday 1 September, everyone in New Zealand who is 12 years and over are eligible to get a vaccination. This includes everyone, no matter what their immigration status. People can book their vaccines online at Book My Vaccine – [www.bookmyvaccine.nz](http://www.bookmyvaccine.nz) – or by calling the COVID Vaccination Healthline on 0800 28 29 26 from 8am-8pm seven days a week. People do not have to wait for an invitation to book once they are eligible. Interpreters are available for people who ask. Please remember whaanau Maaori and Pacific families can be vaccinated together when one member of the family is eligible to be vaccinated.

Pacific people can also book vaccinations through K'aute Pasifika Trust by calling or texting 022 318 7151 or emailing [Robert.lavei@kautepasifika.co.nz](mailto:Robert.lavei@kautepasifika.co.nz).

#### Reminder: Please do not get vaccinated when unwell

If you are unwell on the day of your COVID-19 vaccine appointment, you will need to reschedule to another date once you're better. The Book My Vaccine website is the fastest and easiest way to book and make changes to your appointment. Booking through the website can take 5 minutes or less. You can also email the Book My Vaccine team if you have any problems booking or need to change your details by emailing: [booking@vaccine.covid19.health.nz](mailto:booking@vaccine.covid19.health.nz)

#### Needle Exchange Programme

Needle exchange programmes are important harm reduction interventions. Needle exchanges provide for the safe disposal of used needles and syringes.

The New Zealand Needle Exchange Programme is a nationwide programme funded by the Ministry of Health. They are a peer-based organisation, and committed to a health- and human rights-based service approach for people who inject drugs.

People who are injecting drugs can access needles, syringes and other equipment to support safe injecting practice and reduce risk of health related complications.

There are 21 Needle Exchanges across Aotearoa New Zealand, including 1 mobile exchange. In the Waikato, the Hamilton Needle Exchange Programme is located on 16 Vialou Street, Hamilton. Needle exchange programmes are essential services and open at all National alert levels. More information about Needle Exchange Programmes can be found on [www.nznep.org.nz](http://www.nznep.org.nz).

#### Notice on PH notifications during COVID-19 response

While Public Health Units had been asked at the start of this lockdown to stand down from usual activities to support the COVID-19 effort, Waikato PHU has been and continue to investigate notifications of any of the diseases listed in the Ministry of Health's Schedule of notifiable diseases. Please contact us if you have notifications or are concerned about any of the listed disease pathogens. The full list can be found [here](#).

## 2021 Asian Mental Health and Wellbeing Snapshot

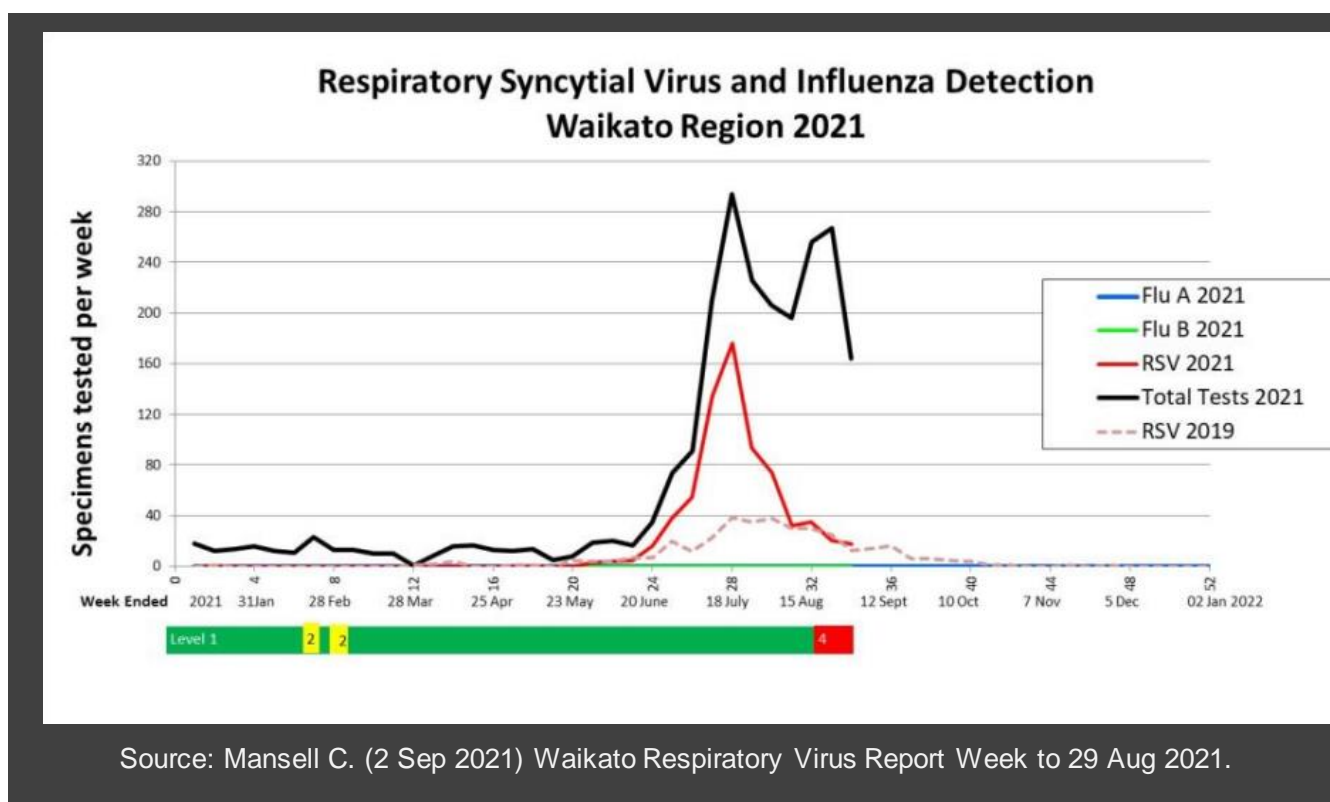
Asian Family Services have released this year's Asian Mental Health and Wellbeing Snapshot. It sheds excellent insights into the status of Asian health 18 months since COVID-19 lockdowns began.

- 47.9% of surveyed Asian people said they could not access language and/or cultural support regularly when they use health services in New Zealand. This phenomena was more pronounced for women.
- Survey participants living in Hamilton had higher rates of concerns due to COVID-19.
- Participants from Hamilton were more likely to worry about a recession, racial discrimination, increased mental stress, feeling isolated, and restricted access to food supplies.

The full report is available [here](#).

## Respiratory Virus Update

We have seen high rates of Respiratory Syncytial RSV cases continue to decline, in line with the usual incidence at this time last year. Seasonal Influenza is a major risk and is likely to return next winter. Although in the past Influenza has circulated into September and October, we haven't had a winter flu season actually start as late as this. If cases are introduced to the Waikato, they are unlikely to result in sustained transmission at this time of year.



Source: Mansell C. (2 Sep 2021) Waikato Respiratory Virus Report Week to 29 Aug 2021.

**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:

**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)

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

Notifiable diseases (Waikato DHB) - Period: August 2020 to August 2021

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

<sup>2</sup>Waikato YTD count as a proportion of national data.

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	71	58	-13	▼	318	3,165	10
COVID-19	1	2	1	▲	16	1,482	1
Cryptosporidiosis	22	24	2	▲	55	305	18
Decompression sickness	0	0	0	-	0	2	0
Dengue fever	0	0	0	-	1	7	14
Diarrhoeic shellfish poisoning	0	0	0	-	0	2	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0	-	0	0	-
Gastroenteritis - unknown cause	1	0	-1	▼	2	127	2
Gastroenteritis / foodborne intoxication	1	1	0	-	13	58	22
Giardiasis	7	9	2	▲	100	794	13
Haemophilus influenzae type b	0	0	0	-	1	9	11
Hepatitis A	0	0	0	-	0	9	0
Hepatitis B	0	0	0	-	2	12	17
Hepatitis C	0	0	0	-	0	31	0
Hepatitis NOS	0	0	0	-	4	9	44
Hydatid disease	0	0	0	-	0	2	0
Invasive pneumococcal disease	5	6	1	▲	35	356	10
Latent tuberculosis infection	0	1	1	▲	5	80	6
Lead Poisoning	1	2	1	▲	20	332	6
Legionellosis	0	0	0	-	5	93	5
Leprosy	0	0	0	-	0	3	0
Leptospirosis	1	3	2	▲	10	52	19
Listeriosis	0	1	1	▲	1	21	5
Listeriosis - perinatal	0	0	0	-	1	3	33
Malaria	0	0	0	-	0	5	0
Measles	0	0	0	-	0	0	-
Meningococcal disease	0	0	0	-	2	30	7
Mumps	0	0	0	-	0	4	0
Murine Typhus	1	0	-1	▼	1	1	100
Pertussis	1	0	-1	▼	4	53	8
Q fever	0	0	0	-	0	0	-
Rheumatic fever - initial attack	2	1	-1	▼	7	56	13
Rheumatic fever - recurrent attack	0	0	0	-	1	7	14
Salmonellosis	11	4	-7	▼	57	515	11
Shigellosis	0	0	0	-	0	7	0
Taeniasis	0	0	0	-	0	1	0
Tetanus	0	0	0	-	0	1	0
Toxic shellfish poisoning	0	0	0	-	0	2	0
Tuberculosis disease - new case	1	1	0	-	16	182	9
Tuberculosis disease - relapse or reactivation	0	0	0	-	1	11	9
Tuberculosis infection - on preventive treatment	0	0	0	-	0	5	0
Typhoid fever	0	0	0	-	0	2	0
VTEC/STEC infection	16	7	-9	▼	74	623	12
Yersiniosis	11	5	-6	▼	78	971	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.