

March / Maehe 2022

Public Health Bulletin

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

COVID-19 Update

As of 11.59pm on Thursday, 24 February, Aotearoa New Zealand is at Phase 3 of the Omicron response plan. The focus of Phase 3 is to minimise and slow the spread of COVID-19 and to assist the vulnerable members of our community. Thank you for your hard work in managing COVID-19 in the community. More information on care in the community is available [here](https://covid19.govt.nz/isolation-and-care/care-in-the-community) (<https://covid19.govt.nz/isolation-and-care/care-in-the-community>)

Ordering RAT kits

People can order Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) kits for yourself and their household, if they:

- have symptoms
- are a Household Contact
- are a critical worker and need a test to go to work
- are part of the healthcare and emergency service workforce
- require a test for domestic travel or to attend court
- do a job where mandatory testing applies
- have been told to get one by a health professional.

RATs are free and need to be picked up from a collection site near you – someone else can collect on your behalf. More information can be found [here](https://requestrats.covid19.health.nz/?_ga=2.143931253.1913674235.1646360095-950306310.1628717824) (https://requestrats.covid19.health.nz/?_ga=2.143931253.1913674235.1646360095-950306310.1628717824)

The impact of climate change on Maori

A new report has been released by Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga and Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research, examining the impact of climate change through a whakaaro Māori lens. This covers holistic effects of climate change on everything from Māori business to the preservation of tikanga Māori in the face of global warming. It calls for the development of Māori cultural indicators and values for assessing the health of ecosystems on land and in the sea, and from the macro to the micro. You can access the report [here](https://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/news/exploring-the-impact-of-climate-change-on-maori/) (<https://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/news/exploring-the-impact-of-climate-change-on-maori/>)

Pacific specific resources on 'preparedness and planning'

The Ministry of Pacific Peoples and the Ministry of Health have prepared resources planning for COVID-19 in different Pacific languages. These include videos on the Omicron variant, a readiness checklist, vaccination information, and other resources including media briefings and advice. You can access these [here](https://www.mpp.govt.nz/covid-19/covid-19-resources/) (<https://www.mpp.govt.nz/covid-19/covid-19-resources/>)

Prepare Pacific is an online platform especially for the Auckland wider region, but the resources are still very relevant for Pacific across the motu. Their latest resources are available on their facebook page, including video how to use RAT test. This can be accessed [here](https://m.facebook.com/preparepacific/) (<https://m.facebook.com/preparepacific/>)

Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission Report

The Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission has released its first report on the wellbeing of people in New Zealand. The report uses the 12 domains of the He Ara Oranga Wellbeing Outcomes Framework to assess wellbeing from both a te ao Māori and a shared perspective. The report can be accessed [here](https://efaidnbmnnnibpcjpcglclefindmkaj/viewer.html?pdfurl=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.mhwc.govt.nz%2Fassets%2Fte-Rau-Tira-Wellbeing-Outcomes-Report-2021%2Fte-Rau-Tira-Wellbeing-Outcomes-Report-2021-FINAL-WEB.pdf&clen=9398280) ([chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcjpcglclefindmkaj/viewer.html?pdfurl=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.mhwc.govt.nz%2Fassets%2Fte-Rau-Tira-Wellbeing-Outcomes-Report-2021%2Fte-Rau-Tira-Wellbeing-Outcomes-Report-2021-FINAL-WEB.pdf&clen=9398280](https://efaidnbmnnnibpcjpcglclefindmkaj/viewer.html?pdfurl=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.mhwc.govt.nz%2Fassets%2Fte-Rau-Tira-Wellbeing-Outcomes-Report-2021%2Fte-Rau-Tira-Wellbeing-Outcomes-Report-2021-FINAL-WEB.pdf&clen=9398280)).

Child Poverty Action Group 2021 Stocktake

The Child Poverty Action Group has released their stocktake report for 2021. This was to evaluate the implementation of the 2019 recommendations by the Welfare Expert Advisory Group. The report states none of the forty-two key recommendations has been fully implemented. The report is available [here](https://efaidnbmnnnibpcjpcglclefindmkaj/viewer.html?pdfurl=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cpag.org.nz%2Fassets%2FChildren-cant-live-on-promises-CPAG-report-Dec21.pdf&clen=1275631&chunk=true) ([chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcjpcglclefindmkaj/viewer.html?pdfurl=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cpag.org.nz%2Fassets%2FChildren-cant-live-on-promises-CPAG-report-Dec21.pdf&clen=1275631&chunk=true](https://efaidnbmnnnibpcjpcglclefindmkaj/viewer.html?pdfurl=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cpag.org.nz%2Fassets%2FChildren-cant-live-on-promises-CPAG-report-Dec21.pdf&clen=1275631&chunk=true)).

Waikato Respiratory Virus Report

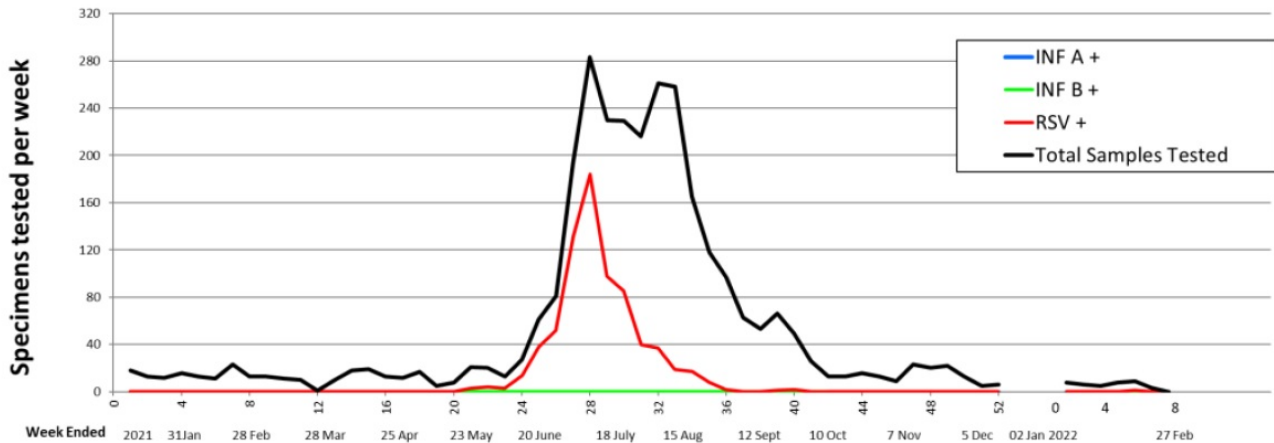
Thank you to Dr Chris Mansell, Clinical Microbiologist, for this report.

As of February 24, we have had one detection of RSV, so this may be still circulating at low levels. Border restrictions are likely to have prevented entry

of new cases into New Zealand in recent months. We can expect a normal RSV season this winter.

No Influenza has been found in the Waikato for two years. With the borders reopening, we can expect a large Influenza presence this year. The start date(s) of this will be quite unpredictable, as circulation is still reduced in the rest of the world.

Respiratory Syncytial Virus and Influenza Detection Waikato Region 2021 and 2022



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

After hours:

MOH: 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 MOH.

During office hours:

Population Health (MOH 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 – February 2022 compared to February 2021 (Waikato DHB)

Notifiable diseases (Waikato DHB) - Period: February 2021 to February 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	41	42	1 ▲	98	982	10
Chikungunya fever	0	0	0 -	0	1	0
Cholera	0	0	0 -	0	2	0
COVID-19	1	9,717	9,716 ▲	9,857	105,111	9
Cryptosporidiosis	1	0	-1 ▼	2	29	7
Decompression sickness	0	0	0 -	0	0	-
Dengue fever	1	0	-1 ▼	0	0	-
Diarrhoeic shellfish poisoning	0	0	0 -	0	0	-
Diphtheria	0	0	0 -	0	0	-
Gastroenteritis - unknown cause	0	0	0 -	0	13	0
Gastroenteritis / foodborne intoxication	3	0	-3 ▼	0	36	0
Giardiasis	11	16	5 ▲	23	107	21
Haemophilus influenzae type b	0	0	0 -	0	1	0
Hepatitis A	0	0	0 -	0	3	0
Hepatitis B	1	2	1 ▲	2	8	25
Hepatitis C	0	0	0 -	0	7	0
Hepatitis NOS	0	0	0 -	0	0	-
Hydatid disease	0	0	0 -	0	1	0
Invasive pneumococcal disease	2	0	-2 ▼	1	40	3
Latent tuberculosis infection	0	0	0 -	0	18	0
Lead Poisoning	2	3	1 ▲	4	33	12
Legionellosis	0	1	1 ▲	1	36	3
Leprosy	0	0	0 -	0	1	0
Leptospirosis	0	1	1 ▲	4	23	17
Listeriosis	0	0	0 -	0	6	0
Listeriosis - perinatal	1	0	-1 ▼	0	2	0
Malaria	0	0	0 -	0	0	-
Measles	0	0	0 -	0	3	0
Meningococcal disease	0	0	0 -	0	5	0
Mumps	0	0	0 -	1	4	25
Murine Typhus	0	0	0 -	0	0	-
Paratyphoid Fever	0	0	0 -	0	1	0
Pertussis	0	0	0 -	0	1	0
Q fever	0	0	0 -	0	0	-
Rheumatic fever - initial attack	1	0	-1 ▼	0	9	0
Rheumatic fever - recurrent attack	0	0	0 -	0	1	0
Rickettsial disease	0	0	0 -	0	0	-
Ross River virus infection	0	0	0 -	0	0	-
Rubella	0	0	0 -	0	1	0
Salmonellosis	8	4	-4 ▼	10	126	8
Shigellosis	0	0	0 -	0	3	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	1	3	2 ▲	5	42	12
Tuberculosis disease - relapse or reactivation	0	0	0 -	0	1	0
Tuberculosis infection - on preventive treatment	0	0	0 -	0	2	0
Typhoid fever	0	0	0 -	0	1	0
VTEC/STEC infection	14	10	-4 ▼	12	209	6
Yersiniosis	6	9	3 ▲	16	236	7

¹Number of cases. Source Waikato DHB.

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