

PANDEMIC RESPONSE PANUI 18 – NGĀTI KAHU COVID-19 RESPONSE AND RECOVERY UPDATE AS AT **TUESDAY 26 JANUARY 2021: (Released Tuesday 26 January 2021)**

E NGA MANA! E NGA REO! E NGA RAU RANGATIRA MA! TĒNĀ RA KOUTOU KATOA,

Although new cases continued to be reported in Aotearoa New Zealand throughout 2020, between September last year and the third week of January this year, we were blessed to be able to carry on with relatively normal kanohi ki kanohi interactions.

“WE ARE STILL IN ALERT LEVEL 1 BUT NEED TO STAY AHEAD OF THE CURVE.” [ĀNAHERA HERBERT-GRAVES]

However, with the arrival in Northland of the virulent South African strain, we are reviewing and refreshing our Pandemic Planning, Partnerships, Communications and Responses because, although we are still in Alert Level 1, we need to stay ahead of the curve.

PLANNING: This is an evolving situation, so:

1. We have updated and republished our [Pandemic Response Plan](#).
2. We encourage whānau, hapū and marae to review and refresh your *Pandemic Response Plans* as well.

PARTNERSHIPS:

1. We have contacted all our member Marae and will restart regular zoom hui this week.
2. We have also contacted our partners at *Kaitāia Hospital, Te Hauora o Te Hiku o Te Ika, Te Whare Ruruhau o Meri* and *Te Iwi o Ngāti Kahu Trust*, as well as *Te Kahu o Taonui (Taitokerau Iwi Chairs Forum), National Iwi Chairs Forum Pandemic Group* and *Te Rōpū Whakakaupapa Urutā (National Māori Pandemic Group)*.
3. We will collaborate with all the above on our planning, response and communications activities as they evolve.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. ABOUT THE SOUTH AFRICAN COVID STRAIN IN NORTHLAND:

- a. **Locations of interest, dates and times** for contact tracing purposes can be found on this link: <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-health-advice-public/contact-tracing-covid-19/covid-19-contact-tracing-locations-interest>
- b. **What you need to do** if you attended one of the locations of interest on the same dates and times as the new community case can be read on this link: <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-health-advice-public/contact-tracing-covid-19/covid-19-contact-tracing-locations-interest#needtodo>
- c. **Background on the strain and how it came into Aotearoa New Zealand:** Dr Rawiri Taonui provides regular, accurate and reliable analyses on COVID and Māori. To read his most recent analysis, click on this link: https://www.waateanews.com/waateanews/x_news/MjYzODk/opinion/Dr-Rawiri-Taonui:-The-Covid-19-risk-for-New-Zealand-and-Maori-in-2021

2. ABOUT COVID TESTING:

- a. At this time, the Health agencies have given priority to testing **only those who are displaying Covid-19 symptoms or who visited the same locations in Whangarei and Kaipara as the new Northland community case.**

ANY MĀORI OVER 50 YEARS OF AGE WITH A CO-MORBIDITY CONDITION, SHOULD ALSO BE PRIORITISED FOR TESTING

- b. However, the advice from Dr Rawiri Taonui is that **any Māori over 50 years of age who has a co-morbidity condition (e.g. diabetes, heart disease, etc) and lives in or has passed through the affected areas, should also be prioritised for testing AND vaccination.**
- c. This message is being carried to the Prime Minister and Cabinet by [Te Rōpū Whakakaupapa Urutā](#).
- d. In the Ngāti Kahu rohe, you can get tested at the [GP service](#) you are registered with, or at Kaitaia Hospital (Monday to Friday from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM).

3. ABOUT UPCOMING HUI: Over the next few days and weeks, a number of planned hui may be changed from physical gatherings to online events. We will keep you up to date and advised on any changes.

