

COVID-19 Update for all staff Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Hi Everyone

This is a brief update as we go into the weekend.

#### Whangarei Case

You will be aware that there has been a reported case of COVID-19 in Whangarei this week. Information about this person (from Auckland) and their movements around Whangarei when known will be made available by the Ministry of Health and through their COVID-19 web-site and contact tracing pages:

<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>

At the time of writing there have been no places of interest published for this Whangarei case. However, please keep up to date with the news and the available information through the above link and follow any advice given.

In the meantime please ensure you: maintain good hygiene practices; wear a mask; use the COVID-19 Tracer App and QR codes wherever you go; stay home if you are unwell; and stay away from others if they are not so well.

#### Vaccine Update

We have circulated lots of information about the vaccine and how to get it. You will also be aware that the Government is pushing really hard to get as many people vaccinated as they can and as soon as possible. We recently sent you a message from Dr Nick Chamberlain the Chief Executive of Northland DHB saying how important it is for all Kiwis to get their vaccination; please read it.

If you haven't yet had a vaccination please make arrangements to get it as soon as you can. Please don't leave it too late. To book your vaccination go to: <https://bookmyvaccine.covid19.health.nz/>

We are aware that there are some people who for health reasons can't be vaccinated. You will have discussed this with your GP, but please also feel free to talk to us if this is your situation.

We are also aware that there are people who are unsure about getting vaccinated. If this is you, please seek out information from reliable sources such as the COVID-19 website. There's a section called your questions answered which may assist you:

<https://covid19.govt.nz/covid-19-vaccines/get-the-facts-about-covid-19-vaccination/covid-19-vaccination-your-questions-answered/>

We are aware that some of our staff feel they don't need the vaccine, or are against getting vaccinated. If this is you we respect your right to choose. However, we urge you to reconsider. Please check out the science from reputable sources.

Finally, we are receiving calls from concerned Clients, asking about the vaccination status of their Support Workers. Where we have your permission we will tell Clients if we know. If Clients ask you directly, you can tell them if you want to.

However, if you are against having the vaccine, please do not get into any further discussions with your Clients about this; please do not cause Clients to become unnecessarily upset with anti-vaccination views. We respect your right to hold such views, but it is not appropriate and crosses the care boundary we expect from our staff.

Have a great weekend.

Stay Safe.

Paul

Paul Emmerson

Quality, Safety & Risk Manager HSN