

Hi Everyone

COVID-19 Vaccinations, a Message from Northland DHB's Chief Executive:

Dr Nick Chamberlain, the Chief Executive of Northland DHB, has written to us to try to get more people in Northland vaccinated. His message to us is copied below.

Thank you to those of you who have, or who are awaiting your second jab.

If you haven't yet arranged a vaccination, we encourage you to do so.

Kia ora koutou

We've seen in nearly every other country in the world what happens when the virus rolls through a community of unvaccinated people, and it's grim.

There are 164,526 eligible people (12 years and older) in Northland. As at 6 October, there are still 60,000 people in Northland to be vaccinated.

66,639 people have had two doses and 37,780 have received one dose.

Recent scientific modelling ^[1] gives us a grim outline of how things might look with various vaccination coverage levels in our population.

If 70 percent of Northland's population were vaccinated, 60,000 to 80,000 Northlanders would become infected with COVID-19 over two years.

In addition, we'd lose over 100 of us to the virus - likely our most at-risk Northlanders who are older or have underlying health conditions.

Hospitalisations would peak at 200, putting considerable strain on our health system.

The wait for Northlanders to access healthcare such as hip replacements, cataract surgeries and some cancer treatments would be prolonged.

At 90 percent, there would still be an impact that we must carefully manage, with the number of people affected significantly reduced.

Around 4000 Northlanders would be infected with COVID-19, two people at any one time would be hospitalised, and approximately ten people would lose their lives to the virus.

The more vaccinated we are, the less the impact and the harder it will be for the virus to hang around.

Vaccination is our best protection against COVID-19. We can't keep relying on lockdowns and staying in our communities hoping it won't affect you, because it will find you!

Remember, the COVID-19 delta virus is seeking out unvaccinated people who have no resistance to it. The higher our vaccination rates, the fewer restrictions we'll need to keep the virus under control.

[1] The modelling takes into account and references 4-5% of the national figures, delta variant, open borders and no public health restrictions. Research is from Victoria University and ESR published recently in the Lancet Medical Journal for the Western Pacific region.

COVID-19 Vaccination clinics are available throughout Northland, at general practice, at pharmacy, māori health providers and DHB clinics.

I can't stress enough how important it is for our whole community that as many of us are vaccinated as possible.

To find out where COVID-19 Vaccination clinics are in Northland go to the [HealthPoint](#) website.

No appointment is required however if someone wants to make an appointment they can book via [Book My Vaccine](#).

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