

Pop-Up COVID-19 assessment clinics – Eastern Bay

The Bay of Plenty DHB is supporting Te Puna Ora o Mataatua (TPOOM) and our primary health partners to deliver pop-up clinics.

Holding the pop-ups in Tāneatua, Edgecumbe, Matatā and Te Teko makes it easier and closer to home for rural, isolated and Māori communities to access assessment and testing, instead of having to travel to Whakatāne, Kawerau or Ōpōtiki Community Based Assessment Centres (CBAC).

The pop-up clinics support the Ministry of Health's approach to testing more widely to specific groups or settings that may be identified at higher risk and helps determine if there is any community spread.

With a strong community response to pop up assessment centres for COVID-19 held across the Eastern Bay, additional locations continue to be added.

Next week the pop-up clinics will be at:

Tāneatua Saturday 2 May, 10am-2pm
Rob Shaw Park, Corner Reid Road & McKenzie Street

Edgecumbe Wednesday 6 May,
10am-2pm Cossie Club Carpark, College Rd

Te Teko Friday 8 May, 10am-2pm
Tūteao Marae, 597a Te Teko Road

The assessment centres have previously been set up in locations as remote as Waikaremoana and follow a Kaupapa Māori approach, with Whānau Ora assessments ensuring that patients have wrap around care and have a positive experience of the process. The high turnout numbers included 85 visitors to the Rūātoki one day pop-up and 99 at Ruatāhuna!



Te Puna Ora o Mataatua staff working at the recent Pop-Up assessment clinic in Waikaremoana. Members of our team have moved out of their homes to live in the same mobile bubble while working in the CBACs

Future hours and new pop-up sites will change with community need.

Up to date assessment centre hours and days can be found at covid19.bopdhb.govt.nz/assessment-centres/

In the Lakes DHB area, call the Lakes COVID-19 Assessment line **0800 267 847** to book a test.

Other testing being done...

Rotorua

Free, drop-in centres to test people with symptoms for COVID-19 and give flu vaccinations began this week in Rotorua.

Next week the times are:

Wednesday 6 May at the Te Ngae shops car park

- COVID-19 swabbing
- Flu vaccination
- Sore throat swabbing for 3-35 year olds

Friday 8 May at the Ngongotaha car park behind the Police station

- COVID-19 swabbing

- Flu vaccinations for priority groups
- Sore throat swabbing for 3-35 year olds

Lakes DHB Pouwhakarite Māori Health Lauren James says anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 is encouraged to drop in from 10am to 12pm.

You can drive through with your car, but if you bike or walk you will also be tested.

Katikati

Katikati Rugby Club
Saturday 2 May, 10am – 2pm
Monday 4 May, 10am – 2pm
Sunday 3 May closed

Whakatāne

Whakatāne War Memorial Hall
Monday-Saturday, 9am-12.30pm
Sundays closed

Ōpōtiki starting Thursday 7 May
Ōpōtiki Senior Citizens Hall
Thursdays and Saturdays 10am-2pm

Kawerau (at the Ron Hardie Recreation Centre Car Park)
Tuesdays and Thursdays 10am-2pm

Sore throats matter

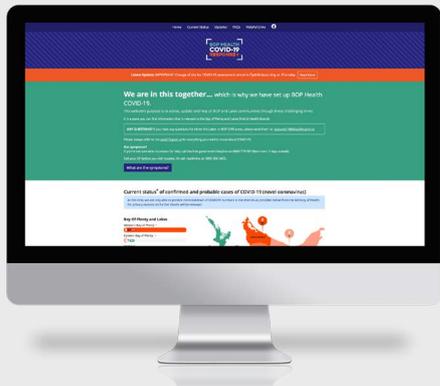
All tamariki/children and rangatahi/young people with a sore throat should be checked right away by a health professional because sore throats may be caused by COVID-19 or Strep A.

Strep A can lead to rheumatic fever which can cause permanent heart damage.

Sore throats can also get checked at any COVID-19 Community Based Assessment Centres (CBACs). CBACs are free.

Being checked for a sore throat is an essential activity; you can travel to do this no matter the COVID-19 alert level.

Taking sore throats seriously will help prevent life-long illness and suffering for our tamariki and rangatahi. For more information visit: [www.toiteora.govt.nz/rheumatic fever](http://www.toiteora.govt.nz/rheumatic-fever)



BOP HEALTH has created a website to help address your Lakes and BOP District Health Board COVID-19 questions.

You can find it at: covid19.bopdhb.govt.nz.

Enquiries to the BOP HEALTH COVID-19 response team can be emailed to: bopcovid19@bopdhb.govt.nz

All Te Puke results have now returned negative for COVID-19

The final test results from more than 250 people tested for COVID-19 in Te Puke recently have now all returned negative. Dr Joe Bourne, who is in charge of the Bay of Plenty DHB's Community-Based Health Services response, says it is a pleasing outcome.

The final four results follow 261 negative test results last weekend from the seasonal workers who were tested. The total of 265 people tested were 'casual contacts' of a recent confirmed case of COVID-19 in an accommodation provider.

The DHB was able to set up a temporary assessment clinic within the accommodation specifically to test the people staying there. Dr Bourne says co-operation and collaboration between the DHB Community Based Assessment Centre (CBAC) teams and the Te Puke community meant they were able to deliver an efficient assessment process.



*Bay of Plenty District Health Board
Community Based Health Services
Lead Dr Joe Bourne*

"We had great collaboration with the kiwifruit industry to support the workers and that has given a result that should give the community confidence."

Pharmacy advice in te reo

In response to the COVID-19 situation, Ngā Kaitiaki o Te Puna Rongoā o Aotearoa – the Māori Pharmacists Association (MPA) have re-launched their free phone line to answer questions that kaumātua or whānau may have about their medicines.

People can ring from anywhere across Aotearoa and their call will be returned within 24 hours by a Māori pharmacist.

These pātai (questions) may be things such as:

How do I use my medicine?

What is my medicine for?

What are the common side effects and how can these be managed?

Should I get the flu vaccine?

Will my normal medicines be affected by the COVID-19 pandemic?

When callers ring the dedicated phone line, they are asked to leave their contact details, and one of a team of 10 Māori pharmacists will respond and go through their questions.

This is not an urgent service. Whānau are encouraged to continue to call 111 in an emergency, or their normal doctor or Healthline if they are wanting prompt medical advice.

Questions about your medicines?
Call **0800 664 688**
and a Māori pharmacist will call you back for a kōrero!





Kuia Rose Heke receives a hygiene pack to support her to stay safe during the lockdown.

An update from TPOOM

Since the Level 4 lockdown began, Manaaki Mataatua have seen more than 1500 people at the drive-thru assessment centres, of which more than 59% identified as Māori.

We had more than 1000 phone calls to our COVID-19 Information & Hardship line (0800 MATAATUA, option 9).

Through these we have been able to help whānau from Whakatāne to Waikaremoana with more than:

- 2,200 medication subsidies at Adamsons Unichem Pharmacy
- 600 kai packs
- 400 hygiene packs

- 50 meat packs

And as it's starting to cool, we have started getting firewood to help keep homes warm this winter.

If you need help with internet, kai, power, rent, prescriptions, power, travel, or access to services, advocacy and emotional support we can help - don't be whakama - give us a call.

Our friendly team speaks Te Reo and English and want to help make sure you and your whānau get through this tough time.

0800 MATAATUA (628 228) option 9
<https://www.tpoom.co.nz>

Civil Defence helplines

If you or someone you know is unable to access food, groceries, heating or other essentials through normal or online delivery channels, your local Civil Defence Helplines are here to help.

These services are intended for people who are facing hardship and don't have access to other support or welfare networks - particularly the disabled, at risk groups, and people without

access to the internet or their own transport.

Bay of Plenty Civil Defence
0800 884 222

Waikato Civil Defence
0800 800 405

Both are available
7am to 7pm
7 days a week



Hospital visiting under Alert Level 3

Lakes DHB

Visitors allowed are:

- one support person with a woman in labour
- one parent/guardian with a child under 16 years, in Emergency Department/Children's Unit/Special Care Baby Unit
- two visitors with a patient receiving end-of-life care
- one consistent visitor/support person with patients in ALL other areas of the hospital (11am-1pm and 4-6pm)

No visitors are allowed for:

- a suspect or positive COVID-19 patient

Bay of Plenty DHB

Visitors allowed are approved on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the Clinical Nurse Manager/Clinical Midwife Manager or Duty Nurse Manager for compassionate grounds and for patients who are palliative and receiving end-of-life care.

Other visitor information:

- one parent or guardian for a child aged 16 or under in Emergency Department or Children's Ward
- one support person for a woman in labour and birth - this same person may visit once daily and stay as long as the woman wants (no overnight stays will be permitted unless the woman is in labour and for early post-natal support)

No visitors are allowed for:

- the Special Care Baby Unit (mothers only)
- a suspect or positive COVID-19 patient.

In all cases where a visitor is allowed access to any BOPDHB or Lakes facility, appropriate screening will take place before they are allowed to enter the facility to ensure they are well.

Golden rules for everybody



Stay home.



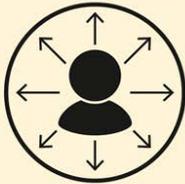
Work and learn from home if you can.



Keep your bubble as small as possible.



Stay regional.



Make your business COVID-19 safe.



If you are sick, stay at home. Quickly seek advice from your GP or Healthline about getting a test.



Wash your hands often with soap. Then dry them.

New Zealand Government



STAY HOME

SAVE LIVES

Golden rules for Level 3

Together we've all been doing a great job of stopping the spread of COVID-19 in the Bay of Plenty, but we still need to stay in our bubbles to keep everyone safe.

While some people can return to work, school or some of their favourite solitary recreation activities under the current Level 3 restrictions, we all still need to keep our bubbles exclusive, stay local as much as possible, and follow careful hygiene and physical distancing rules.

Hunting is allowed only on private land (with permission) and on foot.

Fishing should only be from safe, shore-based locations (beach or wharf, not rocks) or close to shore from a kayak (if

weather and experience level suitable). No diving or boat use.

The start of the duck hunting season is being postponed to start on the second weekend after the date that has yet to be decided for New Zealand to move to Alert Level 2.

See further information at www.covid19.govt.nz/alert-system/alert-level-3

COVID-19
Alert Level 3

Flutracking

Flutracking is an online survey which asks if you have had a fever or cough in the last week and which can help us track COVID-19 across Aotearoa. Registering online will help our surveillance efforts by providing early detection of community spread of the flu and also of COVID-19 symptoms.

We encourage people to register online at www.info.flutracking.net.

This is a practical thing everyone can do to help us monitor flu and COVID-19 symptoms throughout NZ.

Don't ignore healthcare in Alert Level 3

You can keep up with regular healthcare such as childhood immunisations and smear tests in Alert Level 3. People should not delay seeking care for any health needs -- either phone Healthline 0800 611 116 or contact your GP.

The dedicated COVID-19 Healthline number is **0800 358 5453**.

DON'T FORGET TO GET YOUR INFLUENZA VACCINATION

Stepping up services at Rotorua and Taupō hospitals

Rotorua and Taupō hospitals have this week started reintroducing a range of services.

The services being stepped up include inpatient, day-patient and minor procedures with a focus on clinical urgency, and outpatient services for clinical services, allied health and radiology.

The services are being stepped up within the environment of ongoing potential COVID-19 risk within New Zealand. This has required careful planning to separate areas for patients with any risk of COVID-19, until it has been ruled out, and other patients across and within both hospitals.

While Lakes DHB is working to reduce its waiting lists, Chief Operating Officer, Alan Wilson, says events of the past year have seen waiting times extend, and it is going to take some time to work through the backlog of cases.

“Our current focus is on providing a safe service as we move between the various alert levels. We are continuing to increase our rate of virtual consultations which will make a real difference in being able to get on top of our outpatient waiting lists. With theatres getting back to full operations next week, that will make a real difference,” he added.

Measures towards providing safe services include:

- all staff and patients are required to preserve physical distancing requirements
- all elective patients are screened prior to being given a date for surgery and screened again before admitting
- All outpatients will be screened at the front door
- All hospital waiting areas have been arranged to allow better physical distancing.

Related news...

Health advisory issued for Lakes area

The local Medical Officer of Health has issued a health advisory for Lakes Rotoehu, Rotoiti and Rotorua.

Recent sampling results confirm that there is a level of algal bloom activity in each of these local lakes. The laboratory results show that the cyanobacteria present in these lakes are below health warning levels. However, some of the species of algae which have been found in the lakes do produce toxins which can be harmful to people and animals, especially dogs. Therefore, lake users should do their own assessment of risk based on the colour of the water, whether there's suspended material in it, any scum on the surface, and any associated odour. If any of these is present people should stay out of the water.

Up-to-date information on health warnings for the Bay of Plenty and Lakes districts is available through these channels:

- Phone: **0800 221 555**
- Website: **www.toiteora.govt.nz/health_warnings**
- More information: **www.toiteora.govt.nz/recreational_water**
- Facebook: **www.facebook.com/toiteora**
- Twitter: **www.twitter.com/toiteora**
- Email alerts for subscribers: **www.toiteora.govt.nz/alert**



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**IF IN DOUBT,
ACT LIKE YOU
HAVE COVID-19**

Key contacts for public enquiries and assistance

Healthline 0800 358 5453

For local health agency information visit **covid19.bopdhb.govt.nz** or email **bopcovid19@bopdhb.govt.nz**

- Government helpline **0800 779 997**
- Bay of Plenty Civil Defence & Emergency Management Group Call Centre **0800 884 222 (7am to 7pm, 7 days)**
- For counselling support call or text **1737**
- Essential business enquiries **essential@mbie.govt.nz** or **0800 22 66 57**
- Reporting breaches of self-isolation **nhccselfisolation@health.govt.nz**
- Reporting breaches of any Level 4 Alert restrictions **www.police.govt.nz/105support**
- For financial or employer wage subsidy assistance, contact WINZ on **0800 40 80 40**