

MEDIA RELEASE

29 November 2021

COVID-19 case confirmed in Nelson Tasman

The Ministry of Health has confirmed a case of COVID-19 in the Nelson Tasman region, following a positive test result received last night (28 November).

Dr Stephen Bridgman, Nelson Marlborough Medical Officer of Health says that the case and household contacts are in community isolation, and close contacts are in community quarantine with testing of those contacts underway. Investigations are ongoing as to the possible source of infection.

Several exposure events are being assessed by the Nelson Marlborough Public Health team. Locations of interest will be published to the Ministry of Health's website today. As more locations of interest are confirmed they will be added to this page.

This is the first confirmed case likely to be infectious in the Nelson Tasman Region since 2020. A case was announced in Blenheim on 23 October, and has since recovered.

Locations of interest

Nelson Tasman residents and visitors are asked to monitor Ministry of Health's locations of interest page, and follow the instructions given on that page if you've been at a location of interest. There is a list on this page and also a map for quick-reference: [COVID-19: Contact tracing locations of interest | Ministry of Health NZ](#)

Marlborough residents and visitors should monitor this page also if they have travelled to the Nelson Tasman region in the past 14 days.

When and where to get tested

We ask anyone with symptoms – no matter how mild – to please get tested, even if they are vaccinated. Read about symptoms to be alert to on the Ministry of Health website: [About COVID-19 symptoms and spread | Ministry of Health NZ](#)

COVID-19 test locations:

- i) Walk-in, no appointments needed

Nelson CBAC: Saxton Field parking area, Suffolk Rd, Stoke

- Today (29 November) 2-6pm and 9am to 6pm Tuesday to Friday
- CBAC hours will be kept up to date on the Healthpoint website and on the Nelson Marlborough Health website: www.nmdhb.govt.nz
- Additional pop-up test sites in Nelson Tasman will be listed on those websites also

- ii) By appointment at medical centres (GP) please phone ahead first

All locations and hours available on the Healthpoint website. Find an option closest to you: [COVID-19 Testing • Blenheim, Nelson Marlborough • Healthpoint](#)

Vaccination advice

People living in Marlborough, Nelson, and Tasman are reminded to get vaccinated if they have not already. Booster doses are also now available to anyone aged 18+ who had their second dose 6 months ago.

Dr Stephen Bridgman advises that the scientific evidence shows that vaccination has a huge effect in reducing the chance that somebody infected will have a severe illness.

[Vaccination clinic locations across the region are listed on our webpage here.](#)

General advice

Dr Stephen Bridgman reminds people to use the COVID-19 Tracer App (scanning QR codes) wherever they go, or to keep a written record of places if they don't use the app. This is critical to the public health response; when a case and their locations of interest (where they have been in the community) have been confirmed, alerts are sent through the app to people who have visited those locations at the same time as the case.

It also remains very important to wash your hands thoroughly and regularly, as this is one way people become infected (hand to mouth), to cover coughs and sneezes and to stay at home and away from workplaces, schools and public places when you are unwell. As a rule of thumb during the current Alert Level 2 – physical distancing is also advised where possible in public places.

Nelson Marlborough Health response

An Emergency Operations Centre has been established to co-ordinate responses across our Public Health Service, primary health organisations, community and hospitals. In addition to the CBAC stood up this afternoon, to be followed by further mobile test pop-up sites this week:

- labs are ready to process an increased number of tests
- vaccination teams are on standby to increase vaccination in response to increased demand
- screening remains in place at hospital main entrances. Screening is the process by which people coming into hospital are asked about their symptoms, travel, if they've been to any locations of interest and other important questions. We thank members of the public for their co-operation with this process.

Effects on healthcare services

There are no current effects on healthcare services across our region, other than the increased provision of testing. Our healthcare facilities are open with the appropriate precautions in place. Patient appointments and visiting hours are not affected.

Next steps

Our Emergency Operations Centre, Public Health Service and the Ministry of Health (MoH) teams are monitoring the situation and will provide further public health advice if, and when, required.

Further updates and advice will be published on MoH and NMH websites, in media releases and on MoH and NMH social media accounts.

Contact:

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