MEDIA RESPONSE

24 September 2020

Keeping Nelson Marlborough COVID-free

As part of efforts to ensure we know we don't have COVID-19 in our communities, people working in the hospitality, tourism and service sectors are urged to get tested, even if they don't have symptoms.

Asymptomatic testing is now being offered to restaurant and bar staff, cleaning staff, as well as taxi and bus drivers, airport workers and others who come into contact with people traveling from outside the South Island.

Nelson Marlborough Health's Chief Medical Officer Dr Nick Baker says the asymptomatic testing strategy contributes to national direction from the Director General of Health Dr Ashley Bloomfield.

"With school holidays coming up and the warmer weather inspiring more domestic travel and tourism, it's a good time to ask our valuable hospitality, tourism and service workforce to take a test," Dr Baker says.

"The more we test, the more confidently we can say that we don't have COVID-19 in our community. Getting a large number of workers tested sends a strong message of confidence to people who are looking to spend some time in our beautiful region.

"Our local residents will also be assured to know that we're staying on top of testing and that they can confidently book their local holidays and entertainments."

About COVID-19 asymptomatic testing during Alert Level 1

- Testing is free – regardless of citizenship or visa status
- You do not need to be enrolled with a general practice
- You do not need to self-isolate after the sort of asymptomatic testing described here.
- Results are usually available within 48 hours.

Where to get tested
1. At your regular GP clinic or iwi healthcare provider
2. At an after-hours medical centre, listed on the Nelson Marlborough Heatlh website at: www.nmdhb.govt.nz/covid-19

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