

## Situation Report

**ECC EOC Location:** Northland Regional Council, 36 Water Street, Whangarei.

**Emergency:**

Northland CDEM COVID-19 Delta Variant Response

**SITREP number:**

#3

**Activation status:**

Northland GECC Activated

**Effective as at:**

23 August 2021

**Declared area:**

N/A

**Declaration status:**

N/A

**Time declared:**

N/A

**Declaration expires:**

N/A

### Summary of event:

- On 17 August 2021 Prime Minister Ardern announced the whole of New Zealand will move to Alert Level 4, at 2359hrs on Tuesday 17 August 2021 for an initial period of 3 days with exception of Auckland and Coromandel which are extended to 7 days.
- As at 1300hrs on 23 August 2021 there has been 107 confirmed community cases of COVID-19 in New Zealand. Cases are currently located in the Auckland and Wellington region.
- The latest community outbreak has been confirmed to be the Delta Variant.
- There are more than 280 contact tracing locations recorded on the [Ministry of Health](#) website.

### Highlights:

- Northland CDEM Group has activated the Group Emergency Coordination Centre (GECC) at 0900hrs Wednesday, 18 August 2021.
- The Northland CDEM Group is and will continue to engage with key stakeholders to coordinate a robust cross agency response.
- The wearing of face coverings for any person over the age of 12 years has been mandated by the Government under Alert Level 4 from 1159hrs 18 August 2021. Face coverings must be worn if you are a customer or an employee involving customer contact at a business or service operating at Alert Level 4.
- Vaccination centres reopened from 0800hrs Thursday 19 August 2021. Physical distancing and appropriate infection control measures have been put in place.
- Prime Minister Arden will announce at 1600hrs today (23 August) will give an update as to the status of any potential shift in alert levels.

### Critical Factors:

- Concurrent event planning is being undertaken and an all-hazard action plan. These are being done with guidance from NEMA.
- Ability to quickly respond to and alter response arrangements when or if required – including escalating the Northland CDEM GECC and activating local Emergency Operations Centres at district councils.
- Sustaining resources for a prolonged response and maintaining the wellbeing of a healthy workforce throughout the response.

## CDEM Group Update / Council Updates:



### Northland CDEM Group

#### Overview

- The Northland GECC continues to be activated in response to the COVID-19 delta variant situations.
- Action Plan 002 has been developed and **was** circulated to stakeholders and partners on Friday 20 August 2021. **This will cover from 1600hrs, Friday 20 August up** until Tuesday 24 August 2021.
- The Northland CDEM Group COVID-19 Resurgence plan has been reviewed and **was** circulated to CDEM stakeholders and partners on Thursday 19 August 2021.
- The Northland CDEM Emergency Household Goods Delivery Plan has been updated and **was** circulated to the District Councils for guidance on their delivery planning **on Thursday 19 August 2021.**

### Northland Regional Council - Maritime

#### Overview

- Response procedures in place for aids to navigation maintenance or an incident response.
- North Port operating as usual under covid rules.

### Kaipara District Council

#### Overview

- Kaipara District Council IMT has been established and a CIMS structure confirmed.
- Initial response plan has been drafted in preparation for Alert Level 4 lockdown extension.
- Resources and work force identified and ready if there was a need to deliver welfare services in the district.
- Contact made with relevant stakeholders, agencies, partners, and community groups to ensure a coordinated response as required
- Continuing to plan for delivery of Household goods if required.

### Whangarei District Council

- **Whangarei District Council IMT has been established and a CIMS structure confirmed.**
- **Resources and work force identified and ready if there was a need to deliver welfare services in the district.**
- **Continuing to plan for delivery of Household goods if required.**

### Far North District Council

- FNDC are working to establish appropriate resource capability to deliver emergency welfare support if required.

### Iwi Representative Mid North

- Good levels of integration with Iwi reps and CDEM, noting the various training and coordination in lead up to this event.
- **People have settled into a good routine and most people are adhering to the COVID protocols.**
- **Further discussions will continue this week around an integrated and sustainable response.**

## Stakeholder Updates:

### Northland District Health Board (NDHB)

#### Overview

- **No active Covid-19 cases in Northland.**

- Overall inpatient occupancy is at 75%. A bit of a spike in 117 in presentations to Whangārei yesterday (Sunday, 22 August) but only 20 were admitted compared to the usual 35-40.
- Wastewater testing in Whangarei has produced NO positive results.

### NZ Police

#### Overview

- Police are monitoring highways, supermarkets, and petrol stations.
- Police are out in the community conducting reassurance patrols throughout the North.
- Police are working alongside those who are planning to set up community led border patrols in the North.

### Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ)

#### Overview

- FENZ is fine tuning its previous COVID-19 protocols to match the challenges of this new variant.
- All Northland stations are operational.
- Several members have fallen unwell and have undergone testing.
- FENZ continue to monitor brigaded movements (restricted to emergency calls only) to minimise unnecessary contact.

### Te Kahu o Taonui

- A hui was held on 18 August 2021 and the group has been updated on CDEM arrangements.

## Communications Updates:

Demand for information/interaction on social media stepped up over the weekend, with the continuation of Alert Level 4 potentially being a contributing factor.

In addition to the daily 1pm updates, current key topics are Cabinet's review of Alert Levels, services and support available and the introduction of mandatory recording (QR code scanning or written recording).

Nationally, there is still some residual confusion and/or pushback in relation to previous announcements (e.g., face coverings and the accompanying exemptions) and each successive announcement (including regional boundaries should these be put in place) is likely to require ongoing interaction/clarification.

#### Overview

Given the strength of the All of Government (AOG) response and the frequency of updates, the Public Information Management (PIM) strategy remains to:

- Allow the AOG/Ministry of Health to lead on case numbers/locations of interest and response measures.
- Take the cue of the AOG (as communicated via daily teleconferences, messaging grids and FAQs) on daily priorities that are of most relevance within Northland, at all times referencing/linking back to the official Unite Against COVID-19 platforms.
- Support the Northland CDEM welfare response, as and when required.
- Maintain readiness for a concurrent event.

No media activity is being undertaken to date, consistent with the points above.

Media coverage of alert level 4 in Northland to date has been indicative of fewer issues than in previous lockdowns; however, the online environment is noticeably less tolerant.

Northland Police have posted a number of Facebook updates on enforcement activities.

## Welfare:

### Overview

- The Welfare team is updating the processes associated with the possible activation of an 0800 number and delivery of welfare services (accommodation and household goods & services).
- Work is underway updating the 4Ws document (which is the who, what, where and when of local welfare services available in Northland).
- **Welfare service agencies and other stakeholder including iwi will have access to the Northland 4Ws document (the who, what, where and when for what services are available during this COVID Delta response) as soon as the update is complete.**
- The Welfare is liaising with stakeholders to ensure they have capacity and capability to meet demand now and into the future.
- Food banks are reporting a surge in demand. Currently they can keep up, but concerns will arise if there is an increase in demand.
- **Establishing a needs assessment team which will work remotely.**
- **Several homeless people are still sleeping in local parks – this is attributed to the fact they have pets and cannot be accommodated with them at the selected provider. Discussions are underway trying to facilitate an outcome to offer a boarding facility to accommodate pets.**
- To date CDEM has had no requests for welfare assistance.

### Ministry of Social Development (MSD)

#### Overview

- MSD stood up their Incident Management Team on 18 August 2021.
- Limited motel accommodation available; working with providers & non contracted moteliors around availability.
- Open Arms working with HUD/MSD on accommodation options for homeless.
- Food provision – Provider in Bream Bay has advised of families with food insecurity who are waiting for income; vouchers provided.
- Provider in Far North has advised they may have need for food parcels (if lockdown is extended).
- Far North iwi advise that at this stage they are well prepared & Kaitia foodbank is well resourced & supported.

#### Priorities

- Preparing service delivery operations in anticipation of extended lockdown.
- Staff being identified to deliver wage subsidy and call centres will be first cab off the rank.
- Applications for wage subsidy now open; staff actively processing.

#### Other comments/issues

- Concerns around management of Northland / Auckland boundary pending alert level decision. Iwi expressing concerns around border control.
- Collecting community information around food provision; many NGOs remobilising, distributing food parcels to elderly.

## Lifelines - ALL:

### Overview

- Northland Lifelines Group has been contacted – no feedback other than Northpower ceasing maintenance, meaning they have significant capacity to respond to incidents.

#### WDC Wastewater and Stormwater

- All wastewater plants are functioning as normal and are well resourced. No issues foreseen at this point other than delays in materials for maintenance/replacement projects.

#### Rural Status:

##### General

- A lock down for 7-14 days is probably manageable.
- Most people understand why we are here and expect that it will continue for some weeks.
- Farmers feel BAU, teams on farm are just getting on with their jobs and no reports of problems.
- Support businesses are well organised to continue their service and communicating well.

##### Meat processor - AFFCO

- AFFCO is able to keep processing, although have had to make a number of changes to the plant operating configurations in order to achieve increased social distancing, and better protection for employees. These changes have resulted in a small reduction in processing capacity.
- Operations team has quickly been able to implement the Meat Industry Association Level 4 Operating Protocols with minimal disruption.
- Not expecting any significant delays in the processing of livestock.
- Continuing to process all livestock including bobby calves and are acutely aware of the importance of a timely service.
- Livestock buyers are unable to make farm visits for the duration of Alert Level 4 but remain available by phone/email.
- No real changes to capacities.

#### Recovery Implications:

Unknown currently.

#### Priority Actions:

- A coordinated and collaborative across agency response.
- Resourcing the Northland CDEM GECC.
- Establish and maintaining effective communications and relationships with key stakeholders and agencies including the Northland DHB.
- Implementing and following the intent of the AOG response.
- Focus upon preparing the Welfare arrangements for delivery of emergency household goods and services including the provision of an 0800 facility in the case that this may be required.

#### Additional information:

n/a

<p><b>Report authorised by:</b> Group Controller Graeme MacDonald</p>	<p><b>Report prepared by:</b> Evania Arani Emergency Management Advisor</p>
<p><b>Date/time of approval:</b> 23/08/2021 at 1450hrs</p>	<p><b>Next situation report will be issued at:</b> 24/08/2021 at 1500hrs</p>