



**TE KAHU O TAONUI**

*Me mahi tahi tātou*

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**16 DECEMBER 2021**

### **TE KAHU O TAONUI SUPPORT BORDER CONTROL EFFORTS AND SIGNAL CAUTION AS TAITOKERAU BORDER REOPENS**

Te Kahu o Taonui continue to focus on keeping our communities safe from the impacts of COVID19 while we increase vaccination levels. Checkpoints that have been stood up at Uretiti and Maungaturoto are tools to support this. Alongside NZ Police, Taitokerau Border Control and local hapū and Iwi Patuharakeke, Te Parawhau, Ngātiwai and Ngāti Whātua, and in line with Government orders, vaccination checkpoints have been established to deal with the influx of travellers from the re-opening of the Auckland border from yesterday 15<sup>th</sup> December until 17th January.

All involved have agreed to an operating model that includes offline checking of tests and vaccinations by iwi, and all on-road checks to be carried out by NZ Police. We acknowledge the additional resource from NZ Police outside our rohe coming in to tautoko their Northland colleagues and our grassroots efforts to keep Taitokerau safe.

Saliva and rapid antigen testing will be offered if available and accessible where required. Verification stickers will be supplied to those who move through to keep the operation at peak efficiency and effectiveness as we are mindful of the impact holding up the traffic flow could potentially have on both whānau and business coming in or out of the North.

These efforts will be supplemented by the ongoing support provided from Ngāti Whātua in road monitoring at Te Hana, maritime traffic compliance from Customs for our coastal communities and flying squads for our vulnerable communities.

Once again, we welcome our whānau who are double vaccinated and test negative to return home and be prepared to co-operate as our role in helping to actively protect our borders will be taken seriously. We ask manuhiri to expect to be checked and take seriously their responsibilities in keeping our communities safe. We are confident that those who do not will be turned around by the NZ Police.

ENDS

For all media enquiries please contact Te Kahu o Taonui Lead CE Antony Thompson on 027 323 9811