

## Dr Rawiri Taonui Covid Omicron Māori | Auckland to peak before regions, Māori last ethnicity to peak 15 February 2022



### General Situation

There have been 372,362 cases in the back-to-back Delta-Omicron Outbreaks since August last year. 360,174 of those cases have been in the Omicron Outbreak since 1 February.

#### OMICRON OUTBREAK Daily Data Monday 14 March 2022



### New Daily Cases

There were 15,540 new cases on Monday, the 6th consecutive day that cases have been lower than the high of 23,894 on 8 March.

A slight uptick of cases on Monday, driven by new cases in the Pākehā and Māori communities, caution that new cases could increase again.

## Omicron Daily Cases

14 March 2022

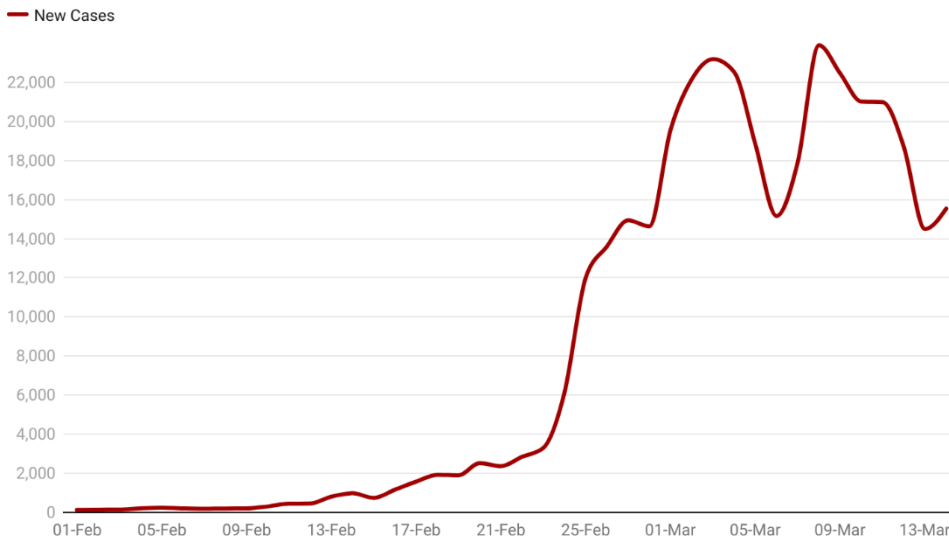


Chart: Dr Rawiri Taonui • Source: Ministry of Health • Created with Datawrapper

## New Cases and Different Peaks by Ethnicity

The Pākehā community has had the highest number of cases for the last 10 days. Pākehā cases were steadily declining from a high of 10,650 on 8 March before rising again yesterday.

Māori have had the second-highest new cases for the last nine days. Cases were steadily dropping since a high of 5,332 on 8 March before rising again yesterday.

### New Cases by Ethnicity



Last week, Māori cases were closing the gap to Pākehā cases. Cases appear to have widened again although Māori cases continue to rise as a proportion of all cases in non-Auckland District Health Boards (see below).

We need to be careful about predicting a peak. With a slight uptick in new cases on Monday, Pākehā and Māori cases rose after a trough last week and may do so again. We are likely to see more Māori cases in the regions.

A steady and significant decline in Pacific Peoples and Asian cases, both of which have large communities in metro Auckland, suggest that these communities may have reached their peak there and in other parts of the upper North Island.

## Daily Cases 4 main Ethnicities

16 March 2022

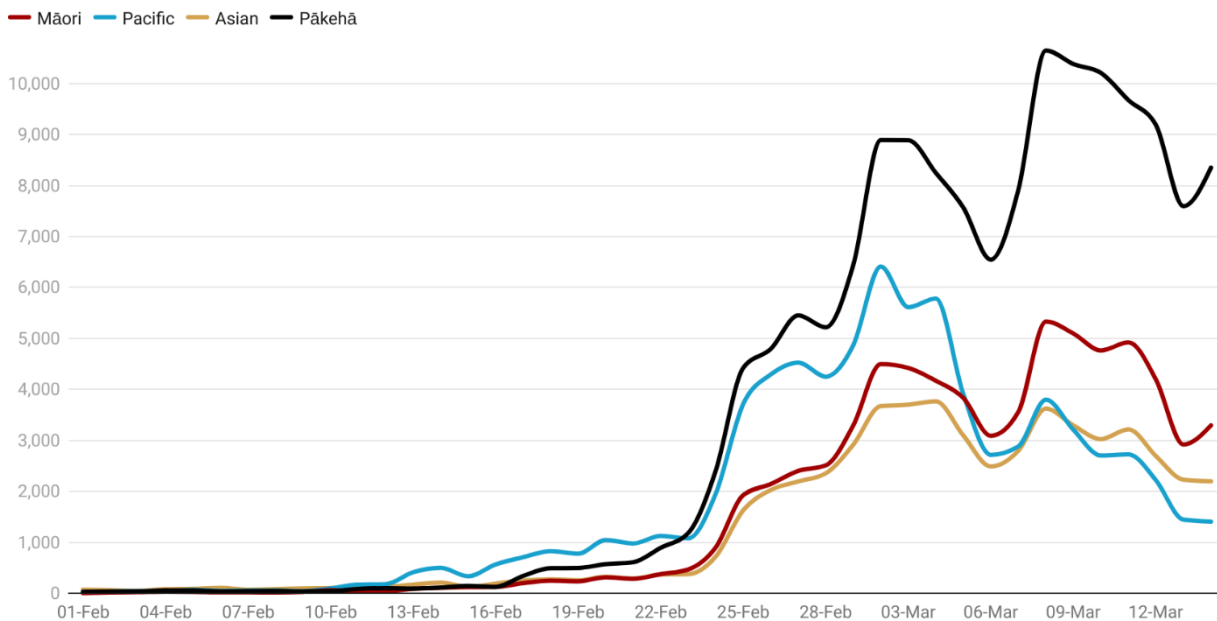


Chart: Dr Rawiri Taonui • Source: Ministry of Health • Created with Datawrapper

## Active Cases by DHB

There were 190,467 active cases, the 4th consecutive day that cases have been lower than the high of 208,734 on 10 March.

### Auckland Peak

A three-day decrease in active cases in the three Auckland DHBs suggests that the City of Sails is either near or at its peak. A significant decrease of active cases in the Pacific Peoples and Asian communities (see above) support this inference. Both communities have significant demographics in metro Auckland.

### Peaks in North Island Regions

Corresponding decreases in Northland, the Waikato, the Bay of Plenty, and the Lakes on Monday suggest that other DHBs in the upper North Island are reaching a peak close behind Auckland.

### Later Peak further South

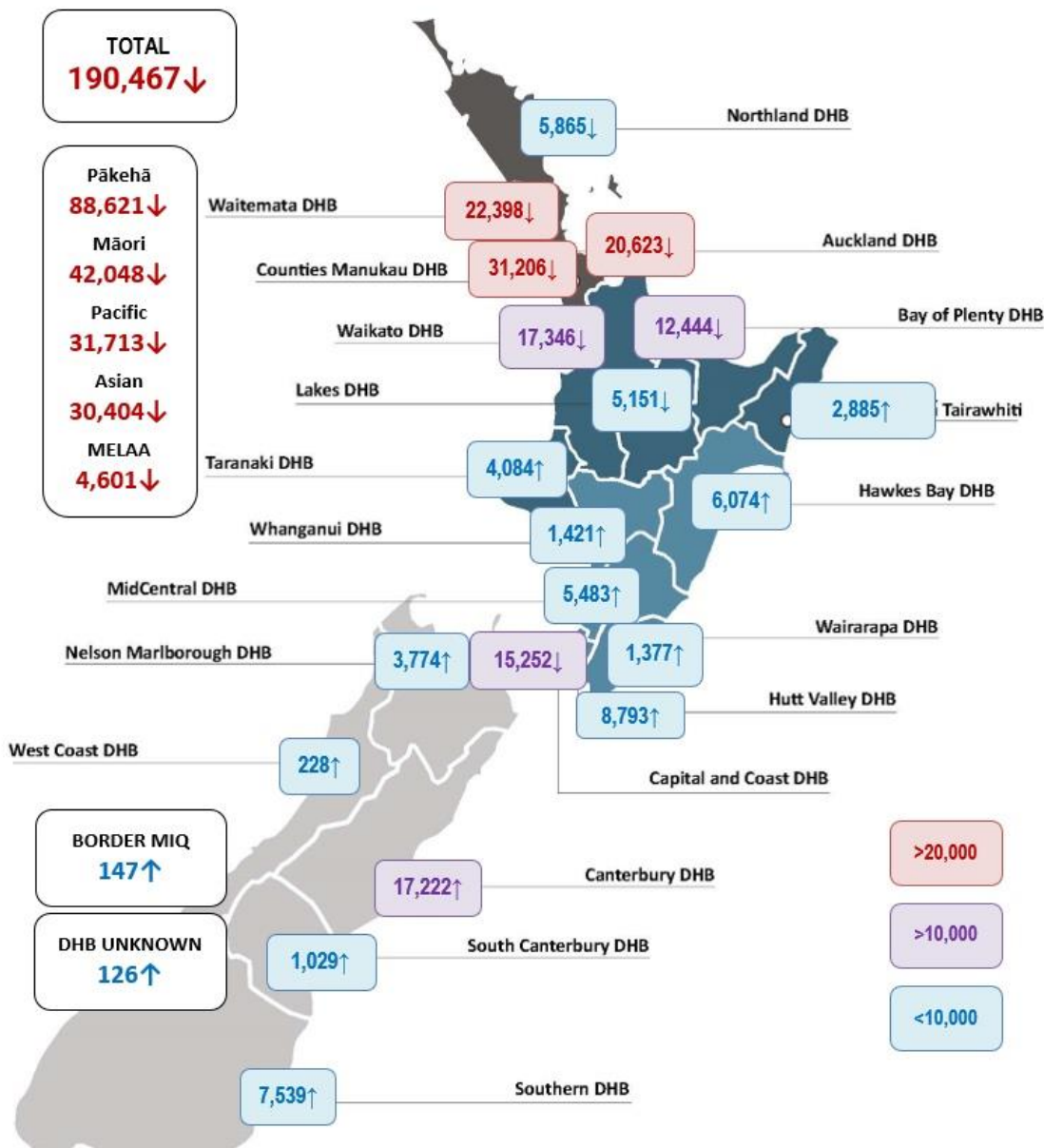
All other DHBs in the central and lower North Island and the South Island continue to have rising active cases. The peak in these regions is running behind Auckland and the upper North Island.

### Sidebar

The sidebar on the table below shows that all ethnicities have declining active cases. This reflects the greater decrease in cases in Auckland over-shadowing continuing rising cases in other parts of the country.

# NZOmicron Total Active Cases by DHB

14 March 2022



## Māori Active Cases

The following table compares total active cases, Māori active cases, and the percentage of Māori active cases by DHB.

### Early Peak DHBs

Active cases are declining in DHBs heading to an early peak (Waitematā, Auckland, Manukau, Waikato, Lakes), but more slowly for Māori whose percentage of totals are increasing in the Auckland and Manukau DHBs.

## High Vaccinated DHBs

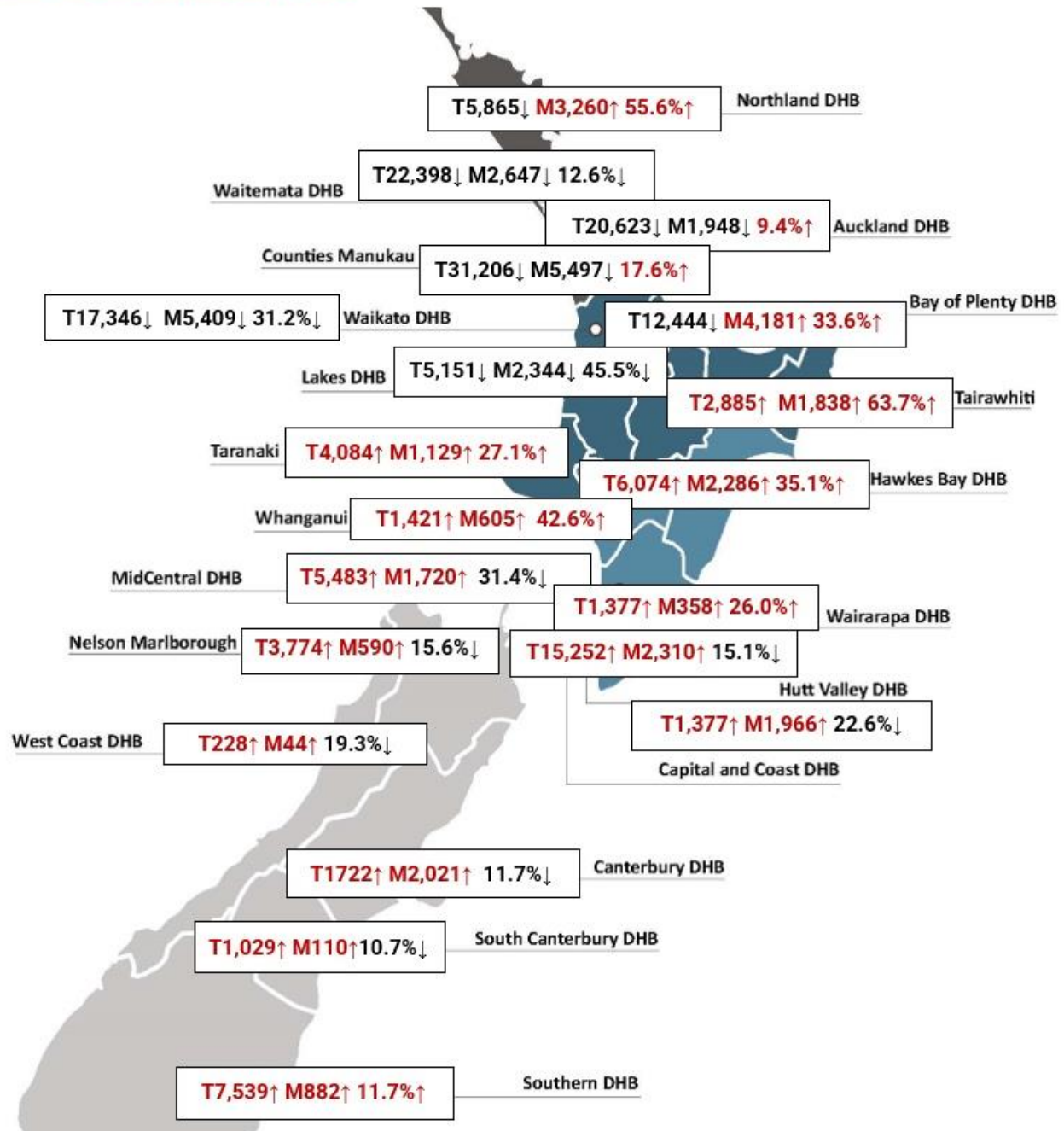
Māori cases are increasing more slowly than those for other ethnicities in the high Māori vaccinated MidCentral, Capital and Coast, Hutt, Nelson, Canterbury, West Coast, South Canterbury and Southern DHBs.

## NZOmicron

### Active Total & Māori Cases and Māori% of Total Cases by DHB

14 March 2022

Rises and falls compared with 10 March



## Low Vaccinated DHBs

While total active cases are declining, Māori are an increasing percentage of active cases in the low Māori Vaccinated DHBs of Northland and the Bay of Plenty.

Total cases are increasing across the Central North Island with Māori cases increasing faster than other ethnicities in the lower Māori vaccinated DHBs of Te Tai Rāwhiti, Hawkes Bay, Wairārapa, Whanganui and Taranaki.

## Infections and Hospitalised Cases

The table below shows the number of new Māori cases and hospitalisations since 1 February (an index this writer uses to differentiate between the overlapping Delta and Omicron OutBreaks).

There have been 360,174 cases in the Omicron OutBreak since 1 February of which 70,121 are Māori.

Māori have contributed a significantly higher percentage of unvaccinated 12yrs+ (32.7%) and unvaccinated under-12yrs cases (24.6%) to national totals than our 17.1% demographic share of the population.

Comparing demographics, the 12yrs+ figure is the second only to the Pākehā community (42.6%) which comes from a much larger 71.7% population base.

Pacific Peoples (18.9%) contribute a higher 2.4 times demographic; Māori are 1.9 times demographic. The key point is that unvaccinated 12yrs+ Māori and Pacific Peoples are a disproportionate number of cases under Omicron. To reiterate this point, the Asian population, which has the highest vaccinated in Aotearoa, has contributed just 3.9% of all unvaccinated 12yrs+ cases.

By percentage and relative to demographic, Māori contribute the lowest percentage of boosted cases (11.5%) to the national total.

## Vaxx Status of Māori Cases and Hospitalisations

1 February to 14 March 2022

Vax Status	Vaxx Status Cases			Vaxx Status Hospitalisations		
	Māori	17.1% Popn	National Total	Māori	17.1% Popn	National Total
<b>Unvaxx12yrs+</b>	4,745	32.7%	14,491	81	25.6%	317
<b>UnvaxxU12yrs</b>	12,352	24.6%	50,296	57	35.2%	162
<b>Vaxxed (1+)</b>	43,067	20.6%	208,930	197	19.8%	1,024
<b>Boosted</b>	9,957	11.5%	86,457	65	13.9%	469
<b>Total</b>	<b>70,121</b>	<b>19.5%</b>	<b>360,174</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>20.3%</b>	<b>1972</b>

Table: Dr Rawiri Taonui • Source: Ministry of Health • Created with Datawrapper

There have been 1,972 hospitalisations since 1 February of which 400 have been Māori.

By percentage, Māori contribute the second-highest proportion of unvaccinated 12yrs+ (25.6%) and under-12yrs (35.2%) hospitalisations after Pacific Peoples (42.9% and 34.6%).

In contrast, by percentage and relative to demographic, Māori contribute the second-lowest number of boosted hospitalisations (13.9%) after the highly vaccinated Asian community (4.7%).

While the Māori community has much lower vaccinations than the Asian community, our double and boosted vaxxed community are hyper-vigilant on protecting whānau and whakapapa.

## Deaths

There have been a total of 115 deaths since Covid-19 arrived in Aotearoa. 26 occurred during pre-Delta outbreaks, 29 during Delta, and 60 since 1 February which marks the beginning of the Omicron Outbreak.

### Covid Deaths

14 March 2022

Ethnicity	Pre-Delta Deaths		Delta Deaths		Omicron Deaths		All Covid Deaths	
	01 March 2020		17 August 2021		01 February 2022		Since 2020	
<b>Māori</b>	5	19.2%	15	51.7%	8	13.3%	28	24.3%
<b>Pacific</b>	1	3.8%	4	13.8%	9	15.0%	14	12.2%
<b>Asian</b>	0	0.0%	4	13.8%	3	5.0%	7	6.1%
<b>MELAA</b>	2	7.7%	0	0.0%	1	1.7%	3	2.6%
<b>Pākehā</b>	18	69.2%	6	20.7%	26	43.3%	50	43.5%
<b>Pending</b>	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	13	21.7%	13	11.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>		<b>29</b>		<b>60</b>		<b>115</b>	

*The Ministry of Health is withholding the ethnic details of 13 cases. Some of the cases may have been pre-Delta or Delta.*

Table: Dr Rawiri Taonui • Source: Ministry of Health • Created with Datawrapper

Pākehā, particularly senior citizens, dominated deaths during earlier outbreaks. Māori dominated the Delta OutBreak. Many of the current Omicron deaths are again from seniors in the Pākehā community.

It is difficult to fully assess the ethnic data because the Ministry of Health is withholding the ethnic details of 13 cases (pending). This writer has ascribed them to the Omicron OutBreak until notifications suggest otherwise.

## Summary

Auckland is nearing or passing through a peak, the rest of the upper North Island is within a week of a peak and other regions are following behind. The Asian and Pacific Peoples communities may reach their peak before the Pākehā and Māori communities. Given the vulnerability of Māori in the regions, Māori may be the last ethnicity to peak.

**Kia noho haumarū, stay safe.**

**Dr Rawiri Taonui**