

Here-turi-kōkā 2021

Ko Wairarapa tēnei: Pānui Kowheori 19

Ko Matariki te tohu ki te wānanga i te tau kua hipa, me te whakamahere i te tau e tū mai nei.
Matariki is a time to reflect on the year gone by and a time to plan for the possibilities in the year to come.

2020 was an unprecedented year, a taniwha swept the nation, and we went into level-4 lockdown.

Ko Wairarapa tēnei was established as a local-level COVID response. Many lessons were learnt, and the collective proved their ability to provide care packages and moral support to whānau throughout Wairarapa.

This year, Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa, Rangitāne o Wairarapa, Te Hauora Rūnanga o Wairarapa, and Whaiora in partnership with the Wairarapa DHB have banded together to support an iwi-led Covid-19 Vaccination campaign throughout Wairarapa.

This kawerongo (newsletter) is called ‘Ko Wairarapa tēnei: Pānui Kowheori 19’ and is part of our communications plan to keep whānau informed about Tekau mā Iwa, the iwi-led C-19 Vaccination Clinic as well as the Departmental Building, and Featherston Community Centre. Dedicated events and education forums, special announcements, and stories about our whānau that are embracing the opportunity to vaccinate.

Mānawatia a Matariki
Mā tātou katoa e ārai a te Kowheori - 19



Naming of a Wairarapa iwi-led Covid vaccination clinic, Tekau mā Iwa in Masterton

A Wairarapa iwi-led Covid-19 vaccination clinic was named on Friday 2nd of July. The name of the clinic is, Tekau mā Iwa. The literal meaning is nineteen. The name was gifted by a group of rangatahi from Mākoura College that formed a focus group, after coming out of the nationwide level 4 lock down, to talk about their wellbeing.

Tekau mā Iwa refers to 19 ways to whakaora, or to restore health. The essence of the name, Tekau mā Iwa is wellness.



The centre, located at 195-197 Chapel Street Masterton (Te Pūtahi Manawa o Whaiora Building), joins the other dedicated vaccination centres available for public appointments.

Mike Kawana, a respected leader of the Ngāti Hamua hapū performed karakia to name the clinic. He said, “the clinic is a whare haumarū”, a safe place for our whānau. This is achieved through manaaki, understanding, and sharing whānau experience with compassion and care.

Whaiora, which offers a wide range of health and social services to our Wairarapa community, proposed the vaccination clinic. Triny Ruhe, the General Manager of Whaiora said, “there is a trained team of skilled people ensuring the smooth operations of the clinic”. Most of the staff are from local hapū.

The partners believe the clinic is part of their commitment to the vaccination response.

He waka eke noa: We are all in this together.



Kotahitanga hui dedicated to Covid 19 Vaccination

A call went out to whānau whanui o Wairarapa to gather at Rangimarie Marae on the 10th of July to learn about the iwi led Covid –19 Vaccination campaign.

Aperahama Matenga, a Kaumatua from Ngāti Hinewaka opened the hui with karakia. The rest of the hui focused on five key points:

Looking back to the past to move forward into the future: In 2020, Ko Wairarapa tēnei was established as a response to covid level 4 lockdown. Many lessons were learnt, as whānau throughout Wairarapa came together to keep each other safe. This year a collective has banded together to lead the Covid 19 Vaccination campaign to keep whānau safe.

A resurgence plan: A hui will be scheduled to design a resurgence plan that will be a road map and response if we step up and down levels. The goal is to have something visible and known by all whānau. The plan will be marae and community led.

The Departmental Building Covid 19 Vaccination Site: The Departmental Building is one of the three dedicated sites. There is a slow rise of Māori being vaccinated, to date 33% Māori have been vaccinated. The site has introduced spot singing, kapu tī, and a warm environment to make whānau feel comfortable and cared for.

Tekau mā Iwa Covid-19 Clinic: The clinic is uniquely iwi-led, and all staff are māori. It adheres to all clinical protocols and will adopt a māori cultural approach to doing things because a by Māori, for Māori approach achieves results.

Communications: Pou Rerenga Pānui - Sophronia Smith works with both iwi, the leadership team, and DHB to ensure accurate information is shared. XIX Māori community engagement champions will work with her and the Tekau mā Iwa Clinical Manager to ensure accurate information is being shared in the community.

The hui finished with a robust discussion about whānau that are hesitant to vaccinate or anti-vaccination. As a collective, we identified the importance of ensuring these whānau are not made to feel guilty. Our whakapapa links and relationships are of the greatest importance.





New clinic manager for Tekau mā Iwa, iwi-led COVID clinic

Jake Carlson, Ngāi Tumapuhia-a-rangi is the new clinic manager of Tekau mā Iwa. He is a paramedic, before this role he worked for Wellington Free Ambulance and was the Wairarapa Regional Manager. He has also worked in Whanganui-a-Tara, and the UK.

Jake was interested in this role because he saw an opportunity to awahi whānau to get their vaccination. He also saw how the system engaged with tangata whenua and identified the need for change. “I am willing to work hard and lay foundations to make some meaningful change. So whānau engagement is positive,” he said.

When asked his thoughts about getting the covid vaccination, Jake said, “It is really important that our people decide for themselves. Be intentional about where you get your information from. The impacts this has on our people, and system, are significant, and certain groups are seriously effected if they get the disease. What I have seen is that the vaccination is safe. I have been vaccinated”. “If you have questions, come down and have a kōrero. But you decide for yourself”, he said.

Jake’s Dad is known as Dee Carlson who was married to the late Susan Carlson. He is married to Jessie, and they have a young son, “he is our ball of joy and keeps us on our toes, Jake said.

Outside of the clinic, Jake will be seen in the ngahere, watching birds, in the maara, and spending time on the coast. He loves photography and travel, which has been put on hold for the time being.



Tekau mā iwa staff

Back : Sandra Finlayson, Samantha Timu, Triny Ruhe
Front: Janeen Cross, Andrea Teahan, Joanne Miller & Ngapera Parata
Absent: Quanita Kawana





“I’m just like the next person and asked do I have to get it done? I’m not frightened just a bit apprehensive. But I got it to keep safe.

I’m going to get my two and see if I am still up?

Ariki Reiri
Ngāti Kaiparuparu



“I got my first vaccination today. I got it because I hadn’t had it before.

I want to say to whānau, go and get the vaccination done. I did!”

Anaru Voice
Ngāti Moe



"I wasn't going to get vaccinated, but I decided I would because of my mokopuna... I also want to travel so needed to be sure I was all good"

Loretta (Letty) Henare
Ngāti Hamua, Ngāti Huia

"Mum has Alzheimer's Dementia and I am often at the nursing home...

I didn't hesitate to get vaccinated; to keep her and our kaumatua safe"

Sophonria Smith
Ngāti Parera, Ngāti Moe,
Ngāti Te Korou



“I am a bit concerned about the side effects because I am an independent disabled person. When I get sick, I need extra care. But I will get it done... To whanau still thinking about getting it, do your research, get the research from a valid source so that you don’t get caught up in scaremongering”.

Beauche McGregor
Ngāti Hamua, Ngāti Kaiparuparu



“There was no hesitation to get it done. I am aware I am vulnerable. There was no question. The first one I didn't even feel the needle. The second one I felt the initial prick. I had no side effects.

There is a lot of misinformation going around. People are asking, is it safe? What will happen? Will it turn me into a two headed monster? Māori have traditionally and consistently not voted, not registered, and to some degree they are inclined not to get the vaccination. So, what we must do is work on making it easier and making it, so it is a positive experience”.

Nelson Rangī
Ngāti Moe

Ikaroa Rawhiti MP - Meka Whaitiri Visits Tekau mā iwa

Ikaroa Rawhiti MP - Meka Whaitiri stopped at Tekau mā iwa during a visit to Masterton yesterday and said it was an opportunity to ensure Māori were “part and parcel of the vaccination rollout”.

“It’s important that we have Māori-led practitioners reaching out to Māori who generally don’t participate in the mainstream health system. That’s what inequity has produced.”

An iwi-led clinic should be seen as a practical solution to Māori patients missing out, Whaitiri said. “That’s why it’s critical. It’s not the only solution, but it is a solution to addressing inequities in the health system for Māori.”

Soumiya Bhamidipati (Times Age)



Pictured left to right.

Jason Kerehi: Director Māori Health WDHB

Sopronia Mete-Smith: Pou Rerenga-Panui

Triny Ruhe: General Manager Whaiora

Meka Whaitiri: Ikaroa Rawhiti MP

Ronald Karaitiana: CEO Te Hauora Inc

Wairarapa Covid Vaccination Clinics

Tekau mā iwa
195 Chapel Street
Masterton

Level 2 Departmental Building
35 - 37 Chapel Street
Masterton

Featherston Community Centre
14 Wakefield Street
Featherston

When you are eligible to book your vaccination, call 0800 28 29 26 or follow the online booking instructions at Book My Vaccine. You can choose your preferred clinic when you make your appointments for both doses.



0800 28 29 26



bookmyvaccine.covid19.health.nz



Stories, Questions and Feedback

If you have any stories to share, any questions relating to covid vaccinations or feedback about this newsletter please contact me on phone or by email. My contact details are listed below.

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Be a **DOER!**

KARAWHIUA

The stronger our immunity, the stronger our community