

# MEDIA RELEASE

*Wednesday, 17 February 2021*

## STATEMENT FROM DR NEIL DE WET, MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, TOI TE ORA PUBLIC HEALTH

Toi Te Ora Public Health has been working with the Te Whare Wananga o Awanuiarangi COVID Response team regarding a Whakatane campus staff member who had been in contact with a couple who thought they may have had contact with the community case in Auckland.

Test results of the couple have both returned negative.

This provides reassurance there has been no known exposure to staff and students at Te Whare Wananga o Awanuiarangi's Whakatane campus.

For anyone concerned about their own movements in relation to the recent confirmed community cases in Auckland, it's important they refer to the Ministry of Health website and the specific advice related to the locations of interest: [COVID-19: Contact tracing locations of interest | Ministry of Health NZ](#)

While the risk is most often very low, the Ministry of Health is advising:

**For people who visited one of the listed locations in Auckland, the Waikato and Taranaki at the times stated:**

- Stay at home.
- Call Healthline on [0800 358 5453](tel:08003585453) and arrange to get a test when advised.
- Stay at home until you receive a negative test result.
- If you receive a negative test, keep watching out for symptoms for the next 14 days. If you develop any COVID-19 symptoms, get another test.
- Wash your hands regularly with soap and water, or with hand sanitiser.

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**For those who did not visit a location of interest:**

- There is very high demand for tests from people who have not been to locations of interest, are not symptomatic and who are not the priority for testing.
- If you were not at a location of interest at the stated times and you have no symptoms, you do not need to be tested.
- If you have symptoms but you did not visit a location of interest, stay home and call Healthline on [0800 358 5453](tel:08003585453) for advice.

Information on Covid-19 assessment centres and testing is also available on the BOP Health Covid-19 Response website at Assessment Centres - [BOP Health COVID-19 Response \(bopdhb.govt.nz\)](https://www.bopdhb.govt.nz/covid-19-response)

**Dr Neil De Wet**

*Medical Officer of Health*

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