

Life under the COVID Protection Framework

The whole of New Zealand moves to the COVID Protection Framework, better known as 'the traffic light system', from Friday 3 December.

This is being promoted as "an end to widespread, blanket lockdowns" but it will still mean that some fairly serious restrictions remain in place - particularly in the 'Red' and 'Amber' settings.

While Northland remains less than 90 percent vaccinated we can expect our region to remain in the 'Red' setting for a good long time to come (unless some allowance is made for the fact that the Bay of Islands in general is better vaccinated than the rest of Northland).

We are in the process of developing a 'way of being' for the Kerikeri Retirement Village under each of these settings.

However, we are reluctant to introduce these new procedures officially until we have had formal guidance from either the Ministry of Health or the Northland DHB about their expectations from retirement home and aged care operators.

We do not want to create confusion by introducing policies and procedures that may then have to be altered.

So - please bear with us while we attempt to gain some clarity from our governing authorities about how we can and how we can't operate, and what we can and cannot do under each of these new settings.

There can be no doubt that the Delta variant of COVID-19 is at our doorstep right here in Northland. Our Care Facility residents, in particular, are terribly exposed if the virus enters our facility. Even if they are vaccinated, old and frail people suffer terribly from COVID - and we have seen this time and time again in care facilities up and down the country.

So - until we obtain the guidance we need from either the Ministry of Health or the Northland DHB about how we should operate our facility under the new 'traffic light system', we are forced to maintain the Level 2-type procedures we currently have in place.

Again - please bear with us while we confirm our new 'way of being' under each of the 'traffic light' settings. Like you, we need clarity just as soon as humanly possible. And we are pushing to obtain it.

Thank you for your patience. Kia kaha!

Mauri ora!