

June / Hune 2022

## Public Health Bulletin

Teena koutou katoa and Talofa lava. Happy Samoan Language Week. We hope you enjoy the latest edition of the Public Health Bulletin.

### COVID-19 Update

New Zealand is in Phase 3 of the Omicron response plan and at Orange in the traffic light system. As of 2 May 2022, travellers from visa-waiver countries and those with valid-visas can now travel to New Zealand isolation-free.

New Zealand's vaccination rate has reached 96% for first doses, 95% for second doses and 73% for boosters. People 18 and over can have a booster at least 3 months after their primary vaccinations, while people 16 and 17 years old must wait for at least 6 months for their booster. If you've had COVID-19 wait three months until you have a COVID-19 vaccination. Book your vaccines or find your nearest walk-in clinic at

<https://bookmyvaccine.covid19.health.nz/>

### Note to Healthcare Delivery providers

If they ask patients and clients if they've tested positive for COVID-19 on RAT, please remember to encourage them to upload their results so they can receive the necessary follow up and support.

### New tool to calculate isolation periods

There is a new tool on the Ministry of Health website that helps household contacts to calculate periods of isolation and test dates. You need to include details of all household members (including cases and household contacts) individually in order to get the correct information. The tool is available under "Work out isolation period" on:

<https://covid19.health.nz/advice/household>

### Flu Season

Flu season is here. Influenza (flu) can be serious, especially for people with medical conditions like heart disease, cancer, diabetes and serious asthma; hapu mama; young children with a history of serious respiratory illnesses; and kaumatua and kuia aged 65 and over (and for Maaori and Pacific people aged 55 and over). Your best defence against flu is to get a flu jab. You can also help by following good hygiene practices:

- Wash your hands or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Don't share drinks
- Avoid crowded places
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze



### Flu vaccinations

Protect yourself, and your whaanau, from the flu this winter. Getting a flu jab is your best defence from the flu this winter. They're available now and are free for those most likely to get very sick. If you've recently had COVID-19, you can have a flu jab as soon as you've recovered.

### University of Auckland Public Health Intensive Week



## Monkeypox

Monkeypox is a known disease that is endemic to parts of Western and Central Africa. There have been cases of monkeypox recently outside of endemic areas, including in Australia. Monkeypox does not easily spread between people. Monkeypox has been added to New Zealand's schedule of notifiable diseases on 7 June 2022. If you have a confirmed or suspected case of monkeypox, you must notify the Public Health Unit.

## Notifications of Sexually Transmitted Infections

AIDS, HIV infection, syphilis and gonorrhoea are diseases which are notifiable to the Medical Officer of Health. Health practitioners must do this using non-identifiable data, and follow a process. Notifications cannot be made over the phone or by email.

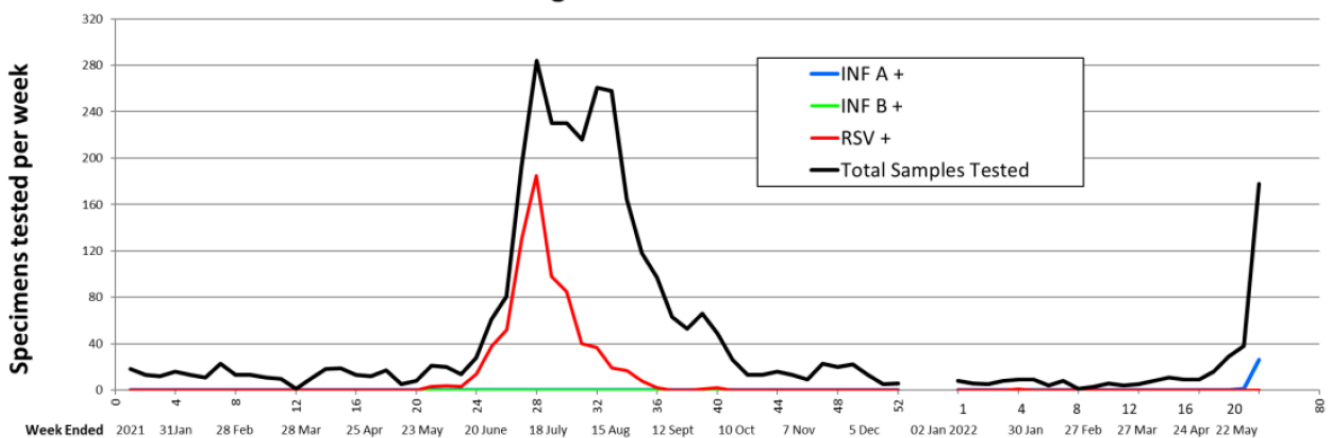
To make notifications, health practitioners should go to the ESR STI surveillance page and follow the instructions to complete the form. [https://surv.esr.cri.nz/public\\_health\\_surveillance/sti\\_surveillance.php](https://surv.esr.cri.nz/public_health_surveillance/sti_surveillance.php) More information on notifications can be found here: <https://www.waikatodhb.health.nz/your-health/public-health-services-and-alerts/notifiable-and-communicable-diseases/>

## Waikato Respiratory Virus Report

Thank you to Dr Chris Mansell, Clinical Microbiologist, for this report. This report is correct as of 31 May 2022.

Influenza is now circulating in the Waikato. We had 17% positive for the week ended 29 May. In the exponential phase of an Influenza season, we often see 50% positive. Testing activity was increased from the 24 May, when we started testing all patients in ED with respiratory symptoms. Just before the first case of Influenza, we saw a rise in Rhinovirus cases, which probably drove the increase in testing in early May.

**Respiratory Syncytial Virus and Influenza Detection  
Waikato Region 2021 and 2022**



Correct as of 31 May 2022

## Maps of COVID-19 cases

Thanks to Dyfed Thomas and the Intelligence Team at Waikato Public Health Unit for these maps. The following are two maps, which show snapshots of COVID-19 cases in the Waikato region. The first map, entitled '7-day COVID-19 Case rate by SA2' shows the number of COVID-19 cases over a 7 day period (23-30 May 2022) per 1,000 residents in each statistical area (SA2). The darker the blue, the higher the rate of COVID-19 cases for the 7 day period per 1,000 residents in that area.

The second map, entitled 'Difference 7-day COVID-19 rate per 1,000' shows the change in rates of COVID-19 cases per 1,000 from the period 23-30 May 2022 to 16-23 May 2022. It is worth looking at these maps side by side as it shows the areas of highest COVID-19 cases per 1,000 residents, and whether these areas appear to be improving or getting worse during the two week periods. It is important to note that these maps are snapshots.

Figure 1.7-day COVID-19 Case rate by SA2

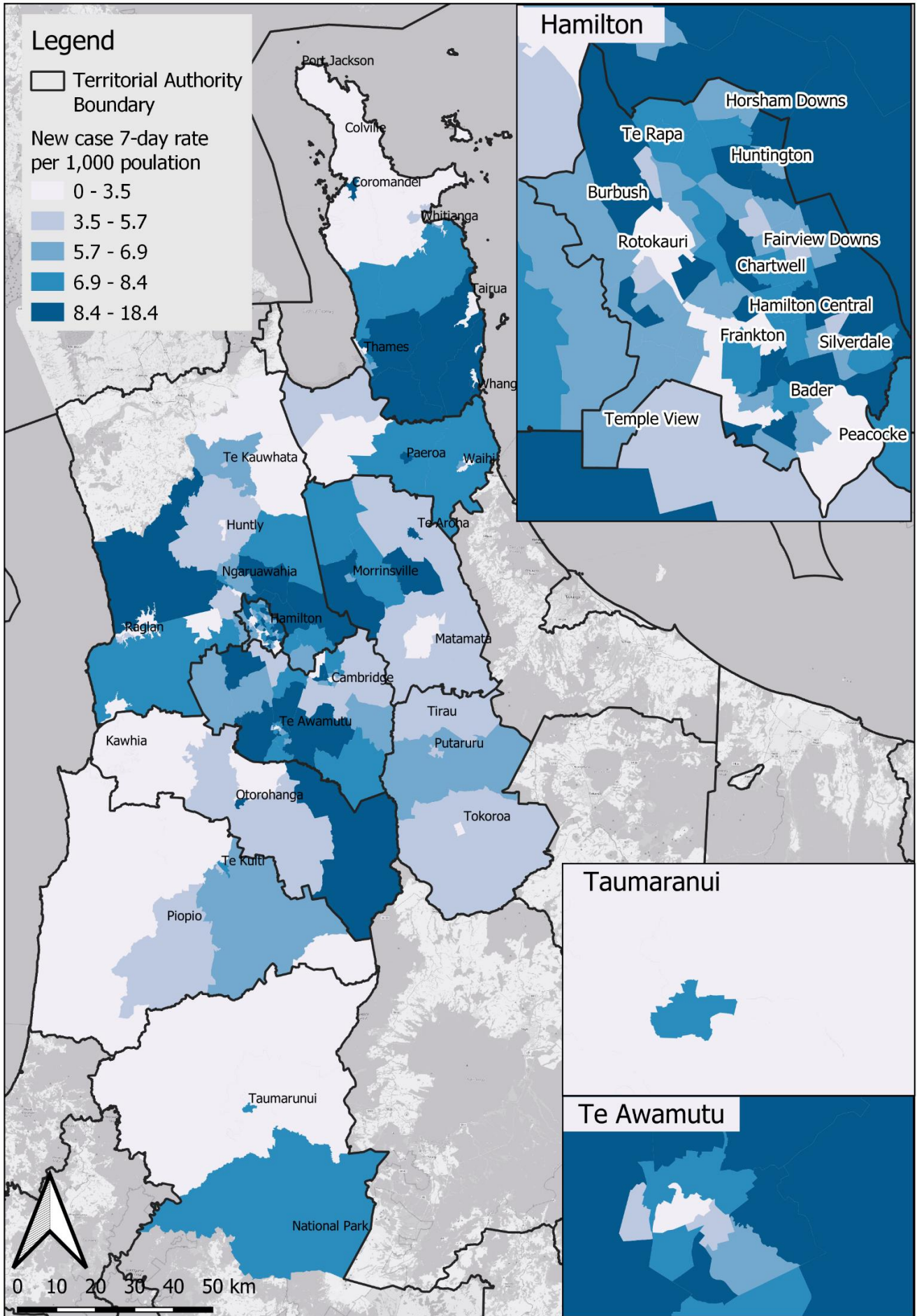
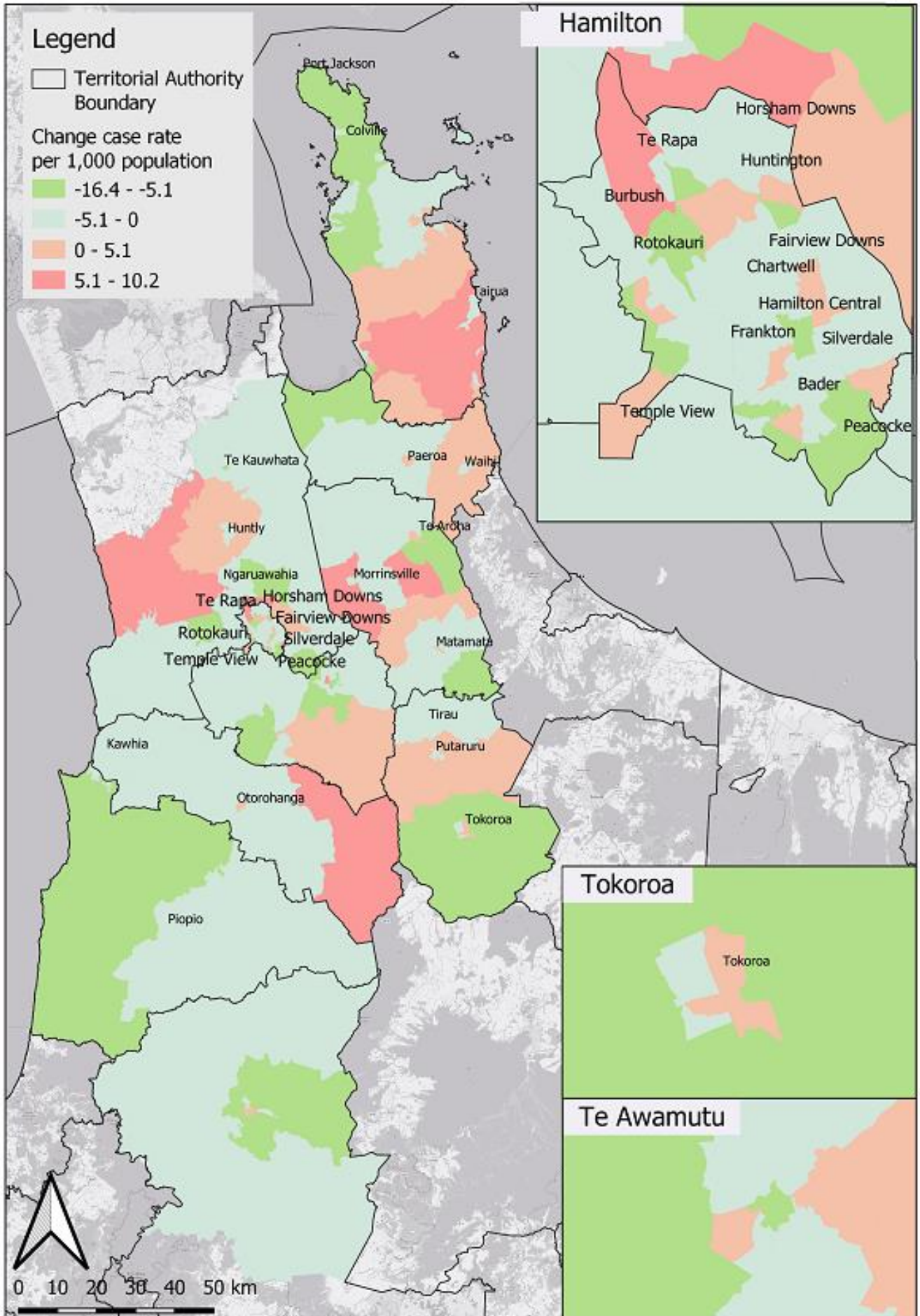




Figure 2. Difference 7-day COVID-19 rate per 1,000



## Notifiable diseases – May 2022 compared to May 2021 (Waikato DHB)

Notifiable diseases (Waikato DHB) - Period: May 2021 to May 2022

<sup>1</sup>Number of cases. Source: Waikato DHB.

<sup>2</sup>Waikato YTD count as a proportion of national data.

Disease name	Waikato <sup>1</sup>				YTD		
	2021	2022	Change	2021-2022	Waikato	National	% <sup>2</sup>
Botulism	0	0	0	-	0	0	-
Brucellosis	0	0	0	-	0	0	-
Campylobacteriosis	22	29	7	▲	198	1,946	10
Chikungunya fever	0	0	0	-	0	0	-
Cholera	0	0	0	-	0	2	0
COVID-19	2	16,531	16,529	▲	96,556	1,150,471	8
Cryptosporidiosis	9	9	0	-	19	115	17
Decompression sickness	0	0	0	-	0	0	-
Dengue fever	0	1	1	▲	1	1	100
Diarrhoeic shellfish poisoning	0	0	0	-	0	0	-
Diphtheria	0	0	0	-	0	0	-
Gastroenteritis - unknown cause	0	1	1	▲	2	58	3
Gastroenteritis / foodborne intoxication	2	3	1	▲	11	64	17
Giardiasis	10	7	-3	▼	40	272	15
Haemophilus influenzae type b	0	0	0	-	0	0	-
Hepatitis A	0	0	0	-	2	7	29
Hepatitis B	0	0	0	-	0	9	0
Hepatitis C	0	0	0	-	0	14	0
Hepatitis NOS	2	0	-2	▼	0	0	-
Hydatid disease	0	0	0	-	0	1	0
Invasive pneumococcal disease	5	5	0	-	11	137	8
Latent tuberculosis infection	0	2	2	▲	3	38	8
Lead Poisoning	7	1	-6	▼	11	128	9
Legionellosis	2	0	-2	▼	2	85	2
Leprosy	0	0	0	-	0	2	0
Leptospirosis	2	1	-1	▼	7	53	13
Listeriosis	0	0	0	-	0	12	0
Listeriosis - perinatal	0	0	0	-	0	2	0
Malaria	0	0	0	-	0	1	0
Measles	0	0	0	-	0	0	-
Meningococcal disease	0	0	0	-	0	11	0
Mumps	0	0	0	-	0	1	0
Murine Typhus	1	0	-1	▼	0	0	-
Paratyphoid Fever	0	0	0	-	0	7	0
Pertussis	0	1	1	▲	1	8	13
Q fever	0	0	0	-	0	1	0
Rheumatic fever - initial attack	1	3	2	▲	3	31	10
Rheumatic fever - recurrent attack	0	0	0	-	0	1	0
Rickettsial disease	0	0	0	-	0	1	0
Ross River virus infection	0	0	0	-	0	0	-
Rubella	0	0	0	-	0	0	-
Salmonellosis	8	4	-4	▼	24	310	8
Shigellosis	0	0	0	-	1	4	25
Taeniasis	0	0	0	-	0	1	0
Tetanus	0	0	0	-	0	0	-
Toxic shellfish poisoning	0	0	0	-	0	0	-
Tuberculosis disease - new case	1	1	0	-	11	112	10
Tuberculosis disease - relapse or reactivation	0	0	0	-	0	2	0
Tuberculosis infection - on preventive treatment	0	0	0	-	0	2	0
Typhoid fever	0	0	0	-	0	4	0
VTEC/STEC infection	14	14	0	-	51	504	10
Yersiniosis	10	6	-4	▼	32	487	7

<sup>1</sup>Number of cases. Source Waikato DHB.

<sup>2</sup>Waikato Year to Date (YTD) count as a proportion of national data.

**Medical Officers of Health:** Felicity Dumble – Richard Wall – Richard Vipond – Richard Hoskins – Margot McLean (COVID-19)

**After hours:**

**MOoH:** 021 359 650

**HPO:** 021 999 521

If there is no answer, please contact Waikato Hospital's switchboard 07 839 8899 and ask for the on-call MOoH.

**During office hours:**

**Population Health (MOoH or HPO):** (07) 838 2569

**Notifications:** 07 838 2569 ext. 22041 or 22020

**Notifications outside Hamilton:** 0800 800 977

**Fax:** 07 838 2382

**Email:** [notifiablediseases@waikatodhb.health.nz](mailto:notifiablediseases@waikatodhb.health.nz)

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