

UPDATE ON COVID-19

Date of Briefing: 1 December 2021. 4.30pm

ATTENDEES

Elected Members: Mayor Barry, Cr Briggs, Cr Brown, Cr Dyer, Cr Edwards, Cr Hislop, Cr Mitchell (via Zoom), Cr Rasheed, Cr Shaw

Staff: Ms J Miller, Chief Executive, Mr K Puketapu-Dentice, Director Economy and Development, Ms A Blackshaw, Director Neighbourhoods and Communities, Ms C Ellis, Head of Chief Executive's Office, Mr D Uppal, Solid Waste Manager, Mr K Chitham, Head of Museums, Ms C Allan, Placemaking Advisor and Ms J Randall, Democracy Advisor.

APOLOGIES

Elected Member apologies: Cr Sutton, Cr Milne, Cr Barratt, Deputy Mayor Lewis

KEY OBJECTIVES OF THE BRIEFING

The purpose of the briefing was for elected members to discuss and provide feedback on Council's response to COVID-19 in the context of the government's new traffic light system.

DISCUSSION – A PRESENTATION BY COUNCIL'S CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Slide 2 – **Management Framework:** Vaccinations are key to the overarching framework

Slide 3 – **Core stages of Management Framework:**

- Council roles subject to the public health order
- Other roles
- Overarching framework/policy.

Slide 4 – **Our principles:** Keeping staff and community safe is the number one priority.

Slide 5 – **Chief Executive's role:** The Chief Executive's role is to manage risk and ensure the health and safety of workers and others.

Slide 6 – **Key dates:** Key dates as Council moves into the traffic light system and reviews Council's vaccination requirements.

Slide 7 – **Key messages:** Vaccine passes and vaccine mandates.

Slide 8 – **Key messages continued:** How Council is encouraging people to get vaccinated.

Slide 9 – **Staff communications timetable:** Keeping staff updated on vaccine requirements.

Slide 10 - **Communications with our communities:** Engaging with the community on Council's vaccine pass requirements in its facilities.

Slide 11 – **What will our facilities look like at orange?** Requirements for Council facilities under the orange traffic light setting.

Council has been working with Iwi and community groups to prepare for the new system. There were challenges with over-crowded housing. The welfare response would be led by the Ministry for Social Development and Māori providers were receiving funding to assist. Council would also provide a welfare response.

QUESTIONS

- Many over 12-year-olds attending pools were known to staff because of swimming lessons and other activities. However, in other cases, it would not be easy distinguishing the over 12s from the under 12s.
- Security would be in place where there were freedom demonstrations. FAQs would be provided for public enquiries, staff and situations where there were non-compliances.
- Affected staff must have had one vaccine by 3 December 2021 and two vaccines by January 2022. In-between, Senior management would look at staff roles and the risks in those roles.
- Senior management would need to consider its responsibilities with regard to COVID as the landlord of Council owned buildings. Staff operating the waste management contract would be required to be vaccinated.
- An information sheet would be available from Council facilities for the unvaccinated with information on where they could go without requiring a pass and where they could get a vaccine.
- Council's focus on safety had been encouraging an uptake of the vaccine.
- Feedback from the community was mostly positive. Some residents had asked for a rates rebate because they would be unable to use Council facilities. However, rates were a charge on property not services and residents could choose to be vaccinated.

NEXT STEPS

- The Chief Executive agreed to send the FAQs to Councillors.
- Councillors would receive an update on performance monitoring over the next couple of months in relation to the impact of COVID on other work.

BRIEFING MATERIALS

Attachment 1 – COVID-19 Update to Members presentation.

The briefing closed at 4.45pm