

COVID -19 Alert Level 4 in Waitaki

Visit the dedicated Pandemic Response Page on our website: www.waitaki.govt.nz

Message from the Mayor

"May you live in interesting times." This ancient quote which is an ironic curse, seems to be an appropriate one for us in the current situation. These are indeed interesting times!

Life has changed significantly for many of us, and we will have to adapt to it. For others who have been housebound or have limited mobility, sadly it may be more of the same. But for all of us, this is a time to step up and take responsibility for ourselves, and the people around us.

Please remember to stay connected to friends and family. Even though you can't visit them, you can still phone them on landlines, or contact them electronically. Keeping connected to other people is more important than ever, and it's necessary for most people's mental health. I'm looking forward to having a little more time to 'Facetime' with my extended family, using video chat whenever possible to see how everyone is.

Please make the most of the month ahead of us, and please take care of yourself and your family. These are interesting times, and we all have the ability to make them positive times.

Best wishes,
Gary Kircher, Mayor for Waitaki

25 March 2020

How to self isolate

ALL NEW ZEALANDERS who are outside essential services are asked now to stay at home, and to stop all interactions with others outside of those in your household. You can leave your home for fresh air, a walk, exercise, to take your kids or the dog outside but **only spend time with those you are in self-isolation with**. If you are outside, keep your distance from others. That means 2 metres at all times. Try not to touch any surfaces. If you do, wash your hands.

Essential Services are still running

Supermarkets, doctors, pharmacies, service stations, and access to essential services like banking, power, communications, postal services will all be available throughout New Zealand at every alert level.

If you do not have immediate needs, do not go to the supermarket. It will be there for you today, tomorrow, and the day after that. We must give time for supermarkets to restock their shelves, there will be enough for everyone if we shop normally.

Be kind. Check-in on the elderly or vulnerable

Now's the best time to start yelling over the fence at your neighbours! Swap phone numbers. Think of ways to keep people who aren't online in touch. Think about dropping supplies to those at home sick or that can't make it out. Just remember good hygiene and leave at the door or an agreed spot. Always stay 2 metres apart or more.

Need financial support?

Don't wait! Apply now. Visit www.covid19.govt.nz for info on how to access the government's economic response package or phone the Ministry of Social Development on 0800 599 009.

Need Help?

The Waitaki District Council call centre will remain open: 03 433 0300

For health advice call your GP, or Healthline on 0800 358 5453

Stressed? Call or text: Need to talk? 1737 This service is free, available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Womens Refuge: 0800 733 843

Youthline: 0800 376 633

Age Concern Otago Waitaki: 021 0234 5882

Whitestone Taxis & Post (transport, delivery): call 0800 434 1234

How we're updating you

On our website, we'll post updates on Facebook and Twitter, broadcast updates via Real Radio 104 every morning (plus send updates to other stations). If you live in the Waitaki Valley check the Omarama Gazette. In Palmerston listen to Happy Days Radio and Puketapu Radio. We are also finding ways to reach those of our customers who might not use these channels and get print material out to them. Stay safe, everyone.

www.waitaki.govt.nz



For the latest information and advice go to the national response website:

covid19.govt.nz



Unite
against
COVID-19

Changes to Council Services

Our offices are close to the public but Council is still operating and focused on delivering essential services during this time.

Our call centre will remain open 03 433 0300, you can email us too at service@waitaki.govt.nz

Building

No building Inspections will be undertaken. Proceeding with uninspected building work will ultimately delay a project and limit our ability to provide Code Compliance Certification. Please be patient and delay your building work until after the alert levels are reduced. If there are any safety concerns with respect to Building/Construction, contact Council for further guidance.

Rubbish and Recycling

Waitaki Resource Recovery Park is closed. If you don't currently have a kerbside rubbish collection service, please call one of the following businesses directly to organise this - Awamoa bins on 03 434 9445; WasteCo on 0800 341 1111; or Waste Management on 03 434 0031.

Our rural Transfer Stations and the Palmerston Landfill will continue to be open for rubbish drop-off but with limited opening hours and restrictions. Check our website for details.

Recycling isn't an option for hygiene reasons - please clean and store or treat as rubbish.

Council Facilities

Parks

All playgrounds are closed for hygiene reasons. When using the open spaces of our parks and reserves please follow social distancing guidelines.

Cultural Facilities

Oamaru Opera House, Forrester Gallery, Waitaki District Archives and North Otago museum are closed. Check the Culture Waitaki website for updates.

Waitaki Aquatic Centre

The Aquatic Centre is closed. All pre-payments have been automatically frozen for all customers (swim school & squad). Expiry dates on concession cards & memberships will also be extended.

Waitaki District Libraries

Libraries are closed but online resources including e-books, press reader, story box and movie streaming are available from the Library website Please keep all library items in your home until Libraries are open again. No overdue fines and fees will be incurred.

Camping Grounds

All WDC camping grounds are closed. Our Camp Manager will endeavour to facilitate collection of units if necessary - phone 027 6866 901. Otherwise units may stay on site until it is publically advised that the grounds are open for collection of units again.



Waitaki

DISTRICT COUNCIL
TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O WAITAKI