



COVID-19 ADVISORY

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Released by: Nick Leggett

To: Forum Directors, Presidents, CEOs & Area Executives
From: Nick Leggett, CEO

COVID-19 – AUCKLAND BORDER AND PORT TESTING OF DRIVERS

We are aware there are two big issues for trucking operators today – movement through the Auckland borders and Covid-19 testing at Ports of Auckland and Port of Tauranga. We have sent many questions to the Government over the weekend and we are still waiting for information.

This is a dynamic situation and the Road Transport Forum will bring you information as it comes to hand. We have reactivated our Covid-19 web page [here](#) – which we will update as information comes to hand.

Issues at the border

We are aware drivers are being stopped and asked for documentation at the Auckland borders and this is causing considerable delays in them getting to work. We believe this is mainly while they are going to/from work. We understand there was a change in documentation overnight, and we have been advised drivers should have a letter from their employer saying they are an essential freight worker. The letter needs to be dated August 2020, and not the letter from the previous lockdown. They do not need the new documentation from the Ministry of Health – that is for other workers.

Trucks should not be being stopped and we need to know if they are.

Moving freight is an exemption for travel into, out of and through Auckland region – as you can see here, on the Government’s official Covid-19 information website <https://covid19.govt.nz/travel-and-the-border/travel-within-new-zealand/regional-travel/#travel-into,-out-of,-and-through-auckland>

We are working to get the information through to Police who are working on the borders so they know that freight operators do not need the Ministry of Health documentation and what documentation they do need, as above.

Issues at Ports

We are aware there is some concern about the interpretation of the order from the Government to have all people who have been on Ports of Auckland and Port of Tauranga since 21 July 2020 tested by 11.59pm tonight. Here is the link to information on the Ministry of Health website <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-current-situation/covid-19-epidemic-notice-and-orders#hlthact>

Here is the link to the Covid-19 Public Health Response (COVID-19 Testing) Order 2020

<http://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2020/0208/latest/LMS391296.html>

We are hearing from a lot of trucking operators that there is conflicting information coming back from those who have been tested around whether or not they can return to work, and the time they may need to self-isolate for before they get their test results and can return to work – this varies from two to 14 days currently.

Again, we are trying to get clarity from the Government, including on why well people need to be tested; what is a realistic timeframe for testing; and what the risk profile is.

This press release has been issued by the Bay of Plenty District Health Board

COVID-19 TESTING AT PORT OF TAURANGA TO BEGIN AT MIDDAY

The Bay of Plenty District Health Board will begin COVID-19 surveillance testing for all Port of Tauranga workers from noon today, Monday 17 August 2020.

DHB and primary health staff, in collaboration with the Port of Tauranga, have worked hard during the weekend to set up a testing station on-site at the port, to ensure sufficient capacity to test all required workers.

The testing facility is for port workers only and is not for the general public. There are approximately 6000 port workers from many different companies.

Port workers with symptoms of COVID-19 should go to their GP to get tested, as we continue to ask anyone who is unwell to stay away from their workplace.

DHB Incident Controller Dr Joe Bourne says they will be prioritising port workers who have been on-board a vessel in the last 14 days and/or those who have been in direct contact with crew.

“We have agreed a flexible approach with the Ministry of Health and will be testing throughout the week. As such, port workers will not be penalised if they are unable to get tested for COVID-19 before midnight (11.59pm) tonight, as was previously the case.”

Port workers will be contacted by their company to allocate them a testing slot.

“We will be collecting a large number of swabs this week throughout the DHB region and therefore we will need to prioritise processing. Please be patient. Port workers do not need to stand down from work while awaiting swab results,” Dr Bourne said.

The testing facility at Port of Tauranga is a dedicated facility for port workers only. Family members of port workers don't need to be tested if they are well. Anyone who has COVID-19 symptoms is advised to contact their GP or Healthline for COVID-19 testing information.

“I would like to thank local iwi, the Port of Tauranga and its associated companies and our primary health organisations for their help and to all port workers for their cooperation during this time.”

Dr Bourne said a team of Registered Nurses and support staff is on-site at the testing facility.

“We will be monitoring how the process is working and will make adjustments as needed so that the testing runs as smoothly and efficiently as possible.”

Non-port workers should call their GP or Healthline for COVID-19 testing information and they will be directed to the appropriate place for testing if required.

All consultations with General Practice for suspected COVID-19 are free. If you do not have a GP, please phone Healthline on 0800 358 5453 who will assess you and advise where to go for testing if required. Members of the public are also asked not to present directly to Pathlab laboratories. Testing at these sites is by GP or Healthline referral only.

What are the COVID-19 symptoms?

Symptoms include:

- a cough
- a high temperature
- shortness of breath
- sore throat
- sneezing and runny nose
- temporary loss of smell.

From the Road Transport Forum

I have been active in the media over the weekend and today to try and get answers from Government. My interview with Duncan Garner on the AM show is available [here](#).

If you have any concerns, please contact us.

Healthline: Free health advice and information, anytime – **0800 611 116**
Need to talk? To connect with a professional counsellor free call or text **1737**

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