

COMMUNITY UPDATE

22 May 2020

Navigating our new normal

Now into the second week of COVID-19 Level 2, it is good to see our Kawerau District getting back into action with children at school and people at work. This is important for people, their families and friends, and of course positive for the economy.

Advice from health officials, and the experiences of other countries which have relaxed after lockdown, shows how quickly the COVID-19 virus can take hold again.

We have been fortunate not to have any COVID-19 cases in our district and only one case in the Eastern Bay to date. But, the reality is that COVID-19 is a new virus, and there is barely any immunity to it amongst the world's population.

This is why there have been such drastic actions taken by the New Zealand Government (and others around the world) to prevent it spreading.

Council will continue to safely and slowly, reopen its services to the public to minimise the risk of COVID-19 transmission. After delays due to COVID-19, the Council has now reviewed the 2020/21 Annual Plan. A consultation document is now being prepared for the public consultation period between 29 May and 30 June.

We look forward to engaging with residents during this process using a range of methods to keep people safe within COVID-19 guidelines.

This Tuesday, our monthly Council meeting will be held, and livestreamed on our Council Facebook page from 9am when it starts.

Please stay safe.

- Mayor Malcolm Campbell

Council Offices

Council offices are now open from 8am to 5pm weekdays.

Level 2 measures will be in place with a maximum of 8 people in the Council offices.

Please be patient if there is a wait time to enter the Council Offices and once inside please note the marked areas for waiting and service, to maintain safe physical distancing.

Contact tracing will be in place: all visitors and contractors will need to provide their name, address, contact phone or email and time of visit. The reason is in the event of there being a Covid-19 case the Bay of Plenty District Health Board (BOPDHB) can easily track people who may have been in close physical contact.


If you are unwell, or have been in contact with someone who is unwell or waiting on a Covid-19 test result please do not come into the office, but phone us for assistance on **07 306 9009** or email kaweraudc@kaweraudc.govt.nz





Navigating our new normal.

Kawerau District Library at COVID-19 Level 2

- Library staff are working on the processes Government requires to keep the community and staff safe from Covid-19.
- The Library began accepting book returns at the front door of the Library from Wednesday 20 May.
- Customers are asked NOT to return books if they or others at their homes are sick or unwell.
- There will be no physical access to the Library.
- New reduced operating hours. Open from 10am to 1pm, 2pm to 4pm Monday to Friday (No Saturdays yet).
- This will allow staff time to clean and quarantine your returned items as well as catch up on deliveries of new books.
- On Monday, 25 May, customers may start requesting and collecting Library material. There will be no charge for placing holds online using your Library accounts. Alternatively you can phone **07 306 9041** or email **library@kaweraudc.govt.nz** to request books or DVDs. Staff will contact you when these are available to collect from the Library foyer area. We will also have a small selection of new and popular items to browse and borrow similar to last year's pop-up Library.
- Reminder: All items are due 30 June 2020 so there is no immediate hurry to return items.
- There will be queuing areas in place outside the Library and we ask customers to respect the 2m distancing required.
- If entering the pickup area, customers will need to sanitise hands and give contact tracing information to staff to keep the community safe.
- The team will continue with digital programming and groups like Write on Kawerau will continue online meetings.
-  The Library wifi is back on – please maintain physical distancing when you are using it inside and outside the Library.



Maurie Kjar Memorial Pool Complex

We are excited to be able to reopen our Maurie Kjar Memorial Pool Complex.

Please be aware there are major changes to how the public swimming pools can safely operate under the COVID-19 Level 2 restrictions as follows:

- Open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm
- Pools cleared 4.30pm
- Contact tracing on entry (name, address, contact phone or email, time of visit)
- Changing rooms closed – please come ready to swim
- Children must be aged 14 years and over to enter
- Toilet available
- Spa Pools and toddlers' pools are closed
- No BBQ hire or private hire
- No spectators or food
- Children's activities: Toddlers pool, Splash Pad and Jumping pillow are closed
- Main Pool laned off into walking and swimming lanes
- Maximum 30 people in the complex
- Limited time if others are waiting to enter the complex
- 2m physical distancing in the pool



Thank you for your patience.

Unite
against
COVID-19

A New Day



The landscape is continually changing as the world comes to terms with COVID-19.

The Eastern Bay has done well to have only the one known case, but we should not become complacent.

We cannot expect that things are going to 'return to normal'. At Level 2 we must continue to maintain health, hygiene, cleaning and physical distancing practices and encourage others to do so.

It is great to see the township of Kawerau buzzing again with businesses and schools reopening and people now able to return to work. This has no doubt put a strain on families financially, mentally and physically. Remember, there a number of services available that can help you during this time, seek them out.

Under Level 2 the doors to the Police Station are now open. The team can help with providing general information, firearm licence matters and reporting of incidents if you are not able to report by calling 105 or reporting online.

Crime has been low during the various COVID-19 levels, but in the past week there has been a noticeable increase in Family Harm incidents. If there is a problem within your whānau, I encourage you to talk to someone. One of our Police goals is 'Prevent Crime and Victimization' and Police have partnered with agencies to provide the support families need.

Policing isn't just all about locking people up so don't be afraid to talk to us.

Finally, if you are showing any symptoms of COVID-19 stay home and seek medical attention. Last week I took myself to the COVID-19 drive-through testing station, the test made my eyes water for the 5 seconds the swab was up my nose and that was it. By the way, my test was negative.

Look after yourself and the beautiful piece of New Zealand we live in.

- Kawerau Officer in Charge, Sergeant Shane Tailby



Annual Plan

- The Annual Plan process has been delayed by COVID-19.
- Council staff have now reviewed and reprioritised the 2020/21 Annual Plan and are preparing the public consultation document for residents.
- The consultation period is from the 29 May until the 30 June.
- A printed copy will be delivered to Kawerau residents and available at the Council offices. Copies will also be available on the Council website and Facebook.
- Public submissions can be made online via Email, Facebook Messenger or the Council Website.
- Printed submissions can be dropped at the Council offices, posted or put in the Council drop box on Islington Street (open 8am to 5pm weekdays).
- Submitters need to put their name and contact details on their submission so Council can contact you regarding your submission.

Fourth Rates Instalment

Council is legally required to charge rates and they are essential for Council to continue to provide services and activities. Council appreciates some ratepayers may have suffered financial hardship as a result of the lockdown. If you wish, please phone us on **07 306 9009** to set up a payment plan to spread the payments across the next four instalments. In Level 2, the Council Offices are open to pay your rates or you can pay:

- Online www.kaweraudc.govt.nz
- Debit or Credit card by phone **07 306 9009**
- Cheque Drop Box in Islington Street (open business hours)
- ☎ Queries Phone **07 306 9009**
- ✉ Email kaweraudc@kaweraudc.govt.nz

Council staff are not available for 'drop in' meetings. If you need to contact a particular staff member, please phone **07 306 9009** to arrange to meet by phone or video meeting.





**Our success is not down to luck;
it's due to hard work from you all.**

**Unite
against
COVID-19**

Kawerau District Council at Level 2

The Council is pleased to be able to start to reopen more services and facilities to residents. However, we are required to operate under strict COVID-19 Level 2 measures so have had to make changes and cannot open everything as usual.



District Office

- Reopened on Monday, 18 May.
- 8am to 5pm, Monday to Friday.
- 8 persons maximum in the office.
- Distancing restrictions.
- Contact tracing.
- Perspex screens installed at the counter.



Maurie Kjar Memorial Pool Complex

- Reopened on Monday, 18 May with reduced services.
- Contact tracing on entry.
- Main pool open.
- One toilet available. Come dressed to swim.
- The following are not open: BBQ, Spa pools, splash pad, bouncy pillow, kiddies pool, and changing room are not open.
- No private hire available.
- Limited time and numbers in pool complex.



i-SITE

- Reopened Monday, 18 May.
- 9am to 4pm weekdays; 9am to 1pm weekends.
- Maximum two people in the i-SITE at a time.
- Contact tracing.
- For Tarawera and Putauaki permits, visit Māori Investments Ltd website.
- i-SITE toilets closed.



Council Facilities

- Council Facilities such as the Firmin Lodge, Town Hall, Concert Chambers and Bert Hamilton Hall remain closed at Level 2 until further notice.



Ron Hardie Recreation

- Closed to the public.
- Operating as the COVID-19 Community Based Assessment Centre (CBAC).



Sir James Fletcher Museum

- Not physically open to the public.
- Requests processed via phone or online.
- No access to the collections.



Library

- Reopened on Wednesday, 20 May.
- Reduced hours.

Thanks for your support with the reduced hours which give our library staff time to ensure book returns and new collections are sanitised, quarantined and safe for our Library users.

- Stage 2: Monday, 25 May
 - Open to collect requests and return items.
 - No access inside the building.
 - Contact tracing.
 - Service available 10am to 1pm and 2pm to 4pm.



Playgrounds

- Open.



Transfer Station

- As per Level 3.
- Open 12 midday to 4pm daily.
- No cash, Card payments only.
- Contact tracing in place.



Public Toilets

- Ranfurly Court toilets open and cleaned regularly.
- i-SITE and Cemetery toilets closed.



Kerbside Rubbish Collection

- Continues as per Levels 3 & 4.
- One bin being collected per household.
- No recycling crate collected.



Regulatory & Planning Services

- All services in operation.
- Normal response to all enquiries and complaints.
- Physical distancing in place.
- Building – consenting and inspection services by appointment only.
- Animal Control – any dog complaints or enquiries and registration.
- Noise Control services.
- Planning and resource consent services.
- Food registration and liquor licensing services.

Please visit council website for online council services www.kaweraudc.govt.nz, or call us on **07 306 9009** if you need any further assistance.



Contact Tracing



Physical distancing



Correct hygiene practices