

## An open letter to the Matamata Community

### RESPECT | PROTECT | VACCINATE

The COVID crisis is back, and this puts our community at a crossroads.

Whilst we acknowledge that the elimination strategy has held New Zealand in good stead to date and we have enjoyed relatively normal lives until recently, the reality is we are going to have to learn how to live with Covid19, Delta and the new variants that will emerge.

**Our first and best strategy is vaccination.**

Matamata Chamber of Commerce promotes itself in a leadership role and during lockdown has been working in the crisis management space and looking to economic recovery initiatives that we can implement in support of our business and wider community.

The Matamata Chamber will be taking a more active role in promoting vaccination, encouraging and supporting mask use, and safer ways of doing business.

Reporting on vaccination rates is provided at Territorial Local Authority level. The following data is as at 2pm, 1 October 2021.

Territorial local authority	1st doses	2nd doses	1st doses as a % of eligible population	Fully vaccinated as a % of eligible population
Hamilton City	109,369	65,706	73%	44%
Hauraki District	11,594	6,264	67%	36%
Matamata-Piako District	21,850	12,450	71%	40%
Otorohanga District	5,274	2,619	59%	29%
Ruapehu District	4,197	2,552	60%	36%
South Waikato District	12,586	7,147	61%	34%
Thames-Coromandel District	20,898	13,863	75%	50%
Waikato District	35,062	20,775	69%	41%
Waipa District	36,970	21,296	76%	44%
Waitomo District	5,151	3,321	64%	41%
<b>Waikato region</b>	<b>262,951</b>	<b>155,993</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>42%</b>

## We are doing OK, but we could be doing better!

The Chamber is working with local and central government, and other relevant stakeholders, to step up, to assist and help drive vaccination rates.

- To set goals and timelines for Matamata vaccinations
- To expedite access and enable our people to be vaccinated
- Support the vaccination messaging to increase reach to all of Matamata's eligible residents

This Chamber initiative coincides with the Government's nationwide push for vaccination on Saturday October 16 – Super Saturday.

The Chamber believes we need our eyes on the real target; getting as many people vaccinated as possible, as quickly as possible. In short, accelerating the vaccination programme in our town.

What must be done to make this happen or what are the alternatives?

Accessibility to vaccination is vital, with the team at the St John Ambulance Hall, 32 Rawhiti Ave, doing a superb job.

Details as follows:

## Hours

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**Mon** 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

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**Tue** 9:00 AM – 7:00 PM

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**Wed** 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

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**Thu** 9:00 AM – 7:00 PM

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**Fri** 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

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**Sat** 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

## Travel Directions:

There is off-street parking in front of the hall, including disability parking. Wheelchair access into the vaccination centre.

## Services Provided

- Anyone currently eligible can access

- No appointment required

Everyone in New Zealand aged 12+ is now eligible for their free vaccination.

**The Matamata vaccination centre is now taking walk-ins.** The ability to vaccinate walk-ins depends on bookings on the day so to reserve your slot, you can also book online at [bookmyvaccine.nz](http://bookmyvaccine.nz) or phone 0800 28 29 26.

At COVID-19 Alert Level 2:

- 2m physical distancing mandatory
- You must wear a face mask throughout the vaccination process

If you are getting a flu, MMR or another vaccine, it will affect the timing of your COVID-19 vaccination. Please discuss this with your GP or other health provider.

The Matamata Chamber of Commerce would like to work collaboratively with local and central government to encourage our communities to become vaccinated, to ensure our communities have access to the vaccine in a timely manner, to provide for the well-being, including the economic well-being of our communities.

In that spirit, for our community, we ask you to do your part.

**1. Mask Up:** Respect our business owners and your neighbours. When a local business asks you to mask up to enter their shop, recognise that it's not their rule and they're doing the best they can to stay open and survive.

**2. Get Vaccinated:** Stop the spread.

If you have put off getting vaccinated, reconsider whether it's time to do your part to defend our community.

We urge you to take responsibility for your choice. If you are unsure or need more information, please contact your medical professional for information and advice.

Cambridge has a well-deserved reputation as a community that comes together in times of need and takes care of its own.

**To those of you who have been eligible and able to be vaccinated already and have done so, thank you!**

To those who are eligible and yet to do so, please act now to help make this the last time we have restrictions on how we interact with each other and our ability to live our lives, do our jobs, and enjoy our community.

- **Protect our community**
- **Respect your neighbours & your business community**
- **Please get vaccinated**

Thank you for your support of our Matamata Community,

Steve Edwards

General Manager Matamata Chamber of Commerce/Matamata i-SITE