

Possible Disruptions to Council Services due to Omicron



Waid Crockett
Chief Executive, South Taranaki District Council

Kia ora koutou,

Over the past few weeks, we have been making preparations so we can keep operating our services as best we can under the government's COVID-19 traffic light system. However, due to the ongoing spread of the Omicron variant, it's possible that some of our services will be disrupted if our staff become unwell or need to isolate - our Aquatics facilities being a recent example.

We want to give you a heads up about some of the changes you might experience. Some of these may happen at short notice, but keep updated on our website www.southtaranaki.com, on our Facebook page (follow our page 'South Taranaki District Council') or download our Antenna app (scan the QR code to find out more).

If council facilities or services are impacted by staff becoming unwell or needing to isolate, this *may* result in:

- Temporary closure of one or more of our facilities (note: we will contact you if you have made a booking)
- Longer than usual call centre wait times
- Changes to services such as rubbish and recycling kerbside collection
- Delays in processing services such as consents, inspections and licensing

Thank you in advance for your patience and kindness towards our staff as they work hard to continue providing services in challenging circumstances.



Upcoming meetings

Policy and Strategy Committee
Monday 7 March, 1pm

Te Kāhui Matauraura (formerly the Iwi Liaison Committee)
Wednesday 9 March, 10am

Environment and Hearings Committee
Wednesday 9 March, 4pm

Audit and Risk Committee
Wednesday 16 March, 12.30pm

Unless stated, meetings are held in Council Chamber, Administration Building, Albion Street, Hāwera

Creative Communities Fund Open

Do you have a community arts project that needs some funding support? The next application round for Creative Communities funding is now open and closes at 5pm on Wednesday 9 March for community-based arts activities taking place between 8 April 2022 and 8 April 2023.

Visit www.southtaranaki.com to find out more and to apply or at your local LibraryPlus. For further information call 0800 111 323 or email funding@stdc.govt.nz.

State of the Arts out now

The 2022 Autumn edition of State of the Arts, the one-stop newsletter for all news and events of what's going on in the District's arts scene, is now available on www.southtaranaki.com.

Current changes to services and facilities

Swimming Pools

Hāwera Aquatic Centre - Open usual hours (the outdoor learners pool remains closed).

Manaia, Eltham, Rāwhitiroa, Kaponga Community Pools - Closed during the week but open weekends usual hours. All school bookings will still go ahead as booked.

Pātea Community Pool - Open Wednesday to Sunday for the rest of the season. School bookings will continue as usual.

Waverley Community Pool - Open usual hours.

Aotea Utanganui - Museum of South Taranaki

In-facility events and programmes have been cancelled, however we will continue to provide outreach programmes in schools and other venues.

Noise Complaints

Noise complaint services will be suspended while in the Red Traffic Light setting, unless related to a monitored activity as part of a Resource Consent.

LibraryPlus' to Start Home Delivery Service

From Monday 7 March South Taranaki District Council (STDC) LibraryPlus' will offer a limited home delivery service for those unable to come into their LibraryPlus centre.

STDC libraries and cultural services manager Cath Sheard says due to the increasing number of Omicron cases in Taranaki in-facility events and programmes have been suspended, however new services have been organised and outreach programmes in schools and other venues will continue.

"While it is disappointing to be cancelling some events and programmes, the team have been working hard to develop new services for our communities," says Cath. "The LibraryPlus will continue to offer a contactless Click and Collect service and we are also starting a home delivery service for those who can't come into a LibraryPlus. This free service will be available within town limits in Hāwera, Kaponga, Eltham, Ōpunakē, Manaia,



Pātea and Waverley to people with children under five years, those who are isolating or at high risk and people over 65."

Cath says LibraryPlus staff are also developing book and activity packs for families who are isolating.

"The packs will have a range of books and simple activities and craft ideas for children, based on broad age ranges. The packs will be available for

contactless pickup if the family has someone who can do that for them or, like the book delivery service, can be delivered free of charge within town limits."

These new services will be available from Monday 7 March. For information on accessing these services go to the South Taranaki District Council LibraryPlus Facebook page or visit the LibraryPlus pages at www.southtaranaki.com/libraryplus or email librarycontact@stdc.govt.nz.



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