**SUMMER GATHERERS:**

**Stay home if you are sick.**

Please **self test** prior to leaving home (even if you feel well). This includes children.

Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) are almost 70% sensitive even when asymptomatic, so will be useful to prevent people from bringing Covid with them.

If you test positive, follow public health advice – which is to stay home and isolate for at least seven days.

**Plan ahead** – bring enough RATs with you to test yourself (and whoever is travelling with you) at least once, preferably twice.

If you don’t have a supply of RATs to bring, promptly order some for local pick up from [request free RATS MoH](https://requestrats.covid19.health.nz/?_ga=2.166762294.92366073.1668733416-494486527.1668733416). Some areas may have limited supply or opening hours around Xmas, so please order and pick up early. (If this link doesn’t work, google the key words.)

At Summer Gathering, you’ll be encouraged to wear masks, especially in the smaller less well-ventilated meeting rooms. So please bring sufficient masks for adults (and children, if appropriate).

If you think are eligible, talk to your GP about whether you can be given an advance prescription for an antiviral treatment for Covid.

**At Summer Gathering**

Attend to your own health needs. Disclose what you can disclose if it helps you better enjoy Summer Gathering (ie are you comfortable shaking hands?).

Wear a mask whenever this is warranted. This is particularly important in smaller less well-ventilated rooms.

If you are feeling unwell, follow guidelines below.

**SUMMER GATHERING STEERING COMMITTEE:**

Steering Committee will form a Covid-Response Sub Committee.

Steering Committee is responsible for ensuring that Summer Gathering rooms are as well ventilated as possible, and outdoor options are used wherever possible. Also reminding Friends, if needed, when additional effort is needed (e.g. re mask wearing).

There is a Covid isolation house (4 bedrooms) available to Summer Gatherers with Covid who cannot drive directly home.

A sick bay has been designated; a ‘quarantine tent’ can be used to isolate a Covid-positive person while next steps are determined.

**MANAGEMENT OF COVID**

IF SOMEONE AT SUMMER GATHERING HAS COVID-LIKE SYMPTOMS:

They must either test for Covid immediately, or leave Summer Gathering.

Anyone with Covid-like symptoms who tests negative is expected to put on a surgical or N95 mask and wear it at all times while they have symptoms.

When eating and drinking, please leave a 1m distance between yourself and others. Don’t join in any singing, shouting or close contact activities until symptoms resolve. Where there is the option to participate in Summer Gathering outdoors – take that option.

IF SOMEONE TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID, that person is required to:

* Immediately mask up and isolate.
* Inform Steering Committee and advise whether they can drive directly home, or if they need to isolate in Whangarei.
  + If isolation in Whangarei is needed, then Steering Committee advises Margo Irvine who will arrange access for the Covid-positive person/s to the Covid isolation facilities.
  + If isolation in Whangarei is NOT needed, the Covid-positive person/s to travel directly home in their own vehicle.

**IMPACT ON SUMMER GATHERING**

If anyone tests positive during Summer Gathering, everyone at Summer Gathering needs to test themselves, and report results to Steering Committee.

If Covid is widespread then Steering Committee would seek health advice about how to proceed. Marion Leighton can provide this advice.

We suggest that ‘widespread infection’ would occur when there is evidence of Covid in three or more ‘groups’ within Summer Gathering.

A ‘group’ meaning social/personal groups, such as those who travelled together, or who are sharing sleeping accommodation.

LIKELY OPTIONS:

(1) Isolate cases as above, and continue Summer Gathering with ongoing daily testing, especially of those who have had close contact with a Covid-positive person.

(2) Cancel the rest of Summer Gathering – sending everyone home with good masks, before they develop symptoms.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The Summer Gathering Organising Committee will endeavour to fully refund the registration fees for anyone who has to cancel their enrolment or leave Summer Gathering early because of Covid.