

## **Keeping the North Shore Hospital community informed about developments relating to Tōtara Haumarū, the new four-storey, state-of-the-art hospital facility, due for completion in 2023 and opening 2024.**

Waitematā District Health Board will shortly be recommencing work on the Tōtara Haumarū construction site. Tōtara Haumarū is a project of major importance and is part of the Government's major infrastructure roll-out programme. The Northern Region has a critical shortage of inpatient beds and operating theatres and Tōtara Haumarū is the only major capacity project to be implemented in the next couple of years.

In approving work to commence under Alert Level 4 lockdown, we want to assure you that all necessary health and safety protocols are in place to ensure a safe working environment both on-site and the surrounding area. The main contractor, Hawkins, has previously worked under Alert Level 4 conditions during the last lockdown and understands the requirements and complexity of working in this environment.

### **Why is the project exempted from Alert Level 4 restrictions?**

Tōtara Haumarū meets the criteria of '*responds to the nation's COVID-19 recovery*', one of the criteria by which building projects can go ahead. We are now 18 months into the current pandemic and should we see the continued re-emergence of this or any other infectious conditions, we will need additional capacity across the region.

### **What works will you be doing?**

We will be proceeding with the piling, earthworks and foundation works. This means there will be some construction noise within consent limits.

### **What health and safety measures do you have in place?**

All standard health and safety measures remain in place for the construction site as well as additional protocols to safeguard the workers and the community under Alert Level 4. In addition to standard construction personal protection equipment, it will be mandatory for workers to be masked at all times while on-site. Workers will sign-in each time they enter and exit the site and undergo daily temperature and health checks. Anyone showing symptoms will be sent home to isolate and report to Healthline for the next steps. A rigorous

hand hygiene and sanitising protocol is in place and all workers that are not currently vaccinated will be offered on-site vaccination directly by Waitematā DHB. Waitematā DHB's health and safety consultants will undertake daily inspections at the outset of the works. These inspections will reduce if, in the consultants' opinion, the required protocols are being adhered to correctly.

### **How will you maintain safe distancing?**

There will be a maximum of 40 staff on the two-hectare site at any one time, with physical distancing protocols to be maintained at all times. Due to the type of work being undertaken at the moment, "worker bubbles" will be easier to maintain and manage. Contactless deliveries will be maintained on-site. Breaks will be staggered to ensure safe social distancing can also be maintained

### **How will you ensure the virus isn't being transmitted from the hospital to site workers to home?**

The Tōtara Haumarū site is secure and fully hoarded off from the remainder of the North Shore Hospital campus. There is a one-way separate entry/exit for all construction traffic, enabling a complete separation of construction workers from the public and hospital staff.