



COVID-19

BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY INFORMATION AND SUPPORT

Updates for Business and Community

Kia ora koutou katoa

The business community is in unprecedented territory. The Chamber is working with the National Chamber network, Whanganui & Partners, the Ministry of Social Development and the Whanganui DHB to provide the best support to its members, other businesses and the community.

We have cancelled all Chamber of Commerce events until the middle of April. We will continue to be informed by Government recommendations and follow best practice guidelines. In the meantime, we are investigating options to communicate and share information via 'virtual' events. We will keep you updated.

The \$12.1 billion economic development package announced by the Government to help cushion the impact of COVID-19 and support the economy through this difficult time, [can be viewed here](#).

This package is unparalleled and we encourage you to take a look at what it includes and whether your business is eligible or not. The support package will be administered by the Ministry of Social Development and in the first instance, you will need to complete a simple online application form.

There are two payments available to support employers affected by COVID-19:

COVID-19 Wage Subsidy

The Government has put together a COVID-19 Wage Subsidy for employers in all regions. It's to support your business if you are impacted by COVID-19 and face laying off staff or reducing their hours because of COVID-19.

COVID-19 Leave Payment

Self-isolation is an important way to slow the spread of COVID-19. The COVID-19 Leave Payment is available to support people financially if they need to self-isolate. It will be paid to employers to pass onto their employees who need to self-isolate for 14 days, based on Ministry of Health guidelines.

For the latest information including how to apply for this assistance please click this link - [wage subsidy and leave support payment scheme](#).

A link to the government's central resource for COVID-19 business information is [on our website](#). This information is updating constantly and helps businesses to stay up to date as new information becomes available. This link also provides Ministry of Health information and advice.

The **Whanganui DHB** has opened its Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) for a more coordinated response to what is happening nationally, and preparedness locally - read the Whanganui DHB [media release](#).

In summary, our focus is on supporting our businesses and community in a constantly changing environment and we'll continue with our normal business - whatever our new normal looks like

Ngā mihi



Sue Stuart
Chief Executive