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Covid-19 NZ: National emergency forum ended by national emergency as Covid hits and Te Papa closes

Andre Chumko · 17:02, Jun 23 2021



ROBERT KITCHIN/STUFF

Covid-19 Response Minister Chris Hipkins says the positive case from Australia is "low risk, but not no risk".

Two conferences, including a national emergency management meeting, were closed down at Te Papa.

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announced that Te Papa was a location of interest.

A second conference, the T-Tech 21 intelligent transport conference, was also taking place at Te Papa and was cancelled.

Museum management later closed the facility. It will remain closed on Thursday.

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The one-day NEMA conference, which started at 8.30am on Wednesday, was attended by more than 100 people. The T-Tech 21 conference was attended by about 150 people.

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All attendees of both conferences were evacuated from the museum.

TOM HUNT/STUFF

The scene outside Te Papa on Wednesday morning, where a Covid-positive traveller visited at the weekend.

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At 9.30am, workers from Te Papa came into the NEMA conference wearing masks and told everybody they had to leave.

All members of the conference were escorted out by Te Papa staff wearing masks. Some had face visors on, they said.

Meanwhile, Transport Minister Michael Wood was walking on stage to address the Tech 21 transport conference when the venue was evacuated, conference organiser Simon McManus said.

ROSA WOODS/STUFF

Te Papa is at the centre of attention as a major location of interest that the Covid-19 case visited.

Te Papa chief executive Courtney Johnston said that once Te Papa staff made the decision to close the building, it asked all people attending conferences inside to leave immediately.

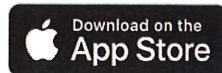
On Wednesday morning, the Ministry of Health announced that Te Papa, on Wellington's waterfront, [was visited by a man who has been confirmed with coronavirus](#) on Saturday between the hours of 3.05pm and 5.45pm.

The museum estimates some 2500 people may have visited it between those hours.

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Saturday is one of the museum's busiest days of the week and as well as exploring it generally, the man visited the major ticketed surrealist exhibition Surrealist Art: Masterpieces from Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen.


Anybody who visited the exhibition between 4pm and 5.45pm on Saturday is considered a close contact and has been asked to self-isolate for 14 days and seek a Covid-19 test immediately.

Meanwhile, general visitors during the affected times have been asked to stay at home until a negative test result is received.


**Te Papa** 
@Te_Papa





Te Papa will be closed today. We are a location of interest after three contacts of covid cases visited on Saturday. Details of when they visited and what you need to do are here



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The museum closed for all of Wednesday to visitors and staff so it could deep clean its exhibitions and building. It would also be closed on Thursday while it assessed the situation and decided whether it would reopen on Friday, Johnston said.

Last year, Te Papa closed for a record 68 days due to lockdown.