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NEW ZEALAND

Covid 19 coronavirus: Positive case closes Northland, northwest Auckland, Waikato businesses and attractions

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Businesses and attractions are closed from Waikato to Northland after discovering they are at the centre of a new Covid scare that emerged north of Auckland yesterday.

Owners of affected commercial and public premises from Parakai to Whangarei have issued notices to customers on Facebook pages saying how devastated they are at the turn of events with many not intending to open until Thursday at the earliest.

Even one tourist attraction in the Waikato, the Te Awamutu Space Centre, has also temporarily closed this week after its manager was exposed to the infection during a visit to Northland's famous Kauri Museum.

Many owners have shared with customers their distress over the unexpected closures that will see them test, isolate and deep clean premises this week.

"I'm sure emotions are high and everyone is feeling a little sh*t right now but let's keep a glimmer of positiveness and get through this," wrote Bream Bay Butchers on their Facebook.

The 56-year-old Northland woman who has tested positive for Covid-19 after leaving managed isolation on January 13 visited a raft of stores across northwest Auckland and Northland including grocers, specialist food stores, electrical stores, cafes, womenswear and homeware stores and a pharmacy.

The butchery, where the woman visited on January 16, said both its Ruakaka and Tikipunga Fresh Food stores in Whangarei would be closed until further notice.

"We do a deep cleanse every night in the shop but both of our shops will be closed until further notice - we are following the government's guidelines strictly and will keep you informed with news as we know."

The Ville Turkish Cafe posted on Facebook that everyone was feeling a bit of shock.

The store, on Commercial Road, Helensville, would be closed today and deep cleaned while staff underwent tests.

"Our current advice is that although there is a low risk of exposure, out of an abundance of caution, we are asking individuals to stay at home and get a test if they visited these locations during the relevant times and call Healthline.

"You will need to continue to stay at home until you receive a negative test result back."

Parua Bay Tavern said on Facebook it had closed its premises as soon as it was contacted by health officials.

"We are following all guidelines set out by the Ministry of Health and we hope to be back serving our amazing community as soon as possible," said the publican.

Among some of the local attractions the woman visited the Kauri Museum announced it would be closed for the next three days to ensure all staff were well and for a deep clean of the premises.

The woman had spent four hours from 11.24am on January 18 at the popular history attraction.

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Last night the Te Awamutu Space Centre announced its manager Dave Owen had also been at the museum and exposed to Covid.

"He was on holiday with the family and visited the Kauri Museum at the same time as the latest case. He has no symptoms so we're hopeful that he doesn't have it, but until he gets the test results and is cleared to leave isolation, the Space Centre is closed. We're very sorry for the inconvenience," it posted on Facebook.

Eutopia Cafe on SH1 at Kaiwaka has also temporarily shut its doors after the woman was in store between 8.55am and 10.55am.

"If you visited the cafe on Monday please get tested and follow the guidelines," said the owners.

They said the cafe and art gallery would be closed for a few days so everyone could get tested, isolate and clean the premises but still managed a word of praise for the infected woman.

"Thanks to our guest for using the tracing app, we all need to do our bit to keep this virus at bay."

Whangarei fireplace company Flaming Fires said they would be able to open tomorrow thanks to a staff member who had been on holiday since January 13.

The infected woman was in the Commerce St store on January 15.

"Unfortunately our Whangarei store is one of the stores visited by the current probable Covid case on Friday the 15th so most of our team will be working from home until further notice," the store posted on Facebook.

"However one of our staff members were away on holiday from Wednesday the 13th, returning tomorrow so our shop will still be open but onsite services will be unavailable until further notice."

The manager said due to recent renovations the store was thoroughly cleaned on the 16th, and it would be cleaned again tomorrow.

The company's Mangawhai store had not been affected.

The Maungaturoto Second Hand store, located on Hurndall St East, posted on Facebook it would be closed today and tomorrow.