

## **Maintaining mana tamaiti, whakapapa and whanaungatanga in practice in the Protection Framework (traffic lights)**

Tamariki, rangatahi and whānau Māori have been particularly vulnerable to the impacts of COVID-19. We need to work with and support them, hapū and iwi to ensure their oranga is protected.

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### **Introduction**

Tamariki and whānau Māori will have tikanga in place that will help them to navigate the restrictions of COVID-19 and keep them well. Under the Protection Framework, tamariki and whānau will have a range of feelings about interacting with those outside of their protected spaces. Some may easily return to increased socialising and contact with others, while some maybe more fearful and anxious to open their protected spaces.

Given the history of Māori with pandemics, their lower vaccination rate and the increased health and socio-economic disparities it is important to practise in mana-enhancing ways as we all progress towards a new type of normality.

### **Mana-enhancing conversations to support tamariki, rangatahi and whānau Māori engagement**

A critical part of our role in engaging with whānau through COVID-19 is to engage in interactive conversations that are inclusive and acknowledge past events, to support tamariki and whānau Māori so that:

- whānau are provided with the information they require to make decisions
- they increase their understanding about the impacts of COVID-19 on their safety and oranga
- they are enabled to share their concerns about their tamariki
- they experience us working effectively with them through these challenging times

Enabling whānau to maintain control of their own situation through active participation in their interactions with us helps to reduce anxiety and supports active whānau participation with us.

Mana-enhancing conversations for whānau Māori can include the following:

#### **Impacts of COVID-19 on their whānau**

It is important that we take time with whānau Māori to explore the specific impacts of COVID-19 experienced by them during previous alert levels to assist in our understanding

their current situation. Explore the impact that isolation and restrictions have had on whanaungatanga. Talk with whānau about any unmet needs, employment and income stability, tangihanga that may have occurred within social isolation restrictions, tamariki or rangatahi specific needs, increased health vulnerabilities, anxiety about reconnecting with others and impacts on relational and whānau stressors. We can include discussions about how we can support tamariki and whānau recovery as they return to a new normality.

### Mana tamaiti

Explore with tamariki and rangatahi how they are feeling and what they understand about the changes in the Protection Framework settings and the requirements that come with these. Creating space for them to share and understand their thoughts and feelings will assist in creating or adjusting their plans. How have their relationships been within the constraints of household isolation?

### Providing information to support active participation

Ensure that whānau have as much information as possible so they can participate actively with us on issues affecting them – for example, helping whānau understand the requirements we must follow in the different Protection Framework settings, such as wearing a mask and any place where vaccination status restrictions are still being applied. Assist them to understand the requirements of the relevant setting of the Protection Framework so they are able to fully participate in decision-making such as hui ā-whānau, family group conferences and other forums. Talk with whānau whose preference is to attend remotely about how we can support them to do this.

### **Facilitating a whānau-led process for person-to-person contact**

It is important that we plan our visits well and that whānau processes for maintaining oranga are explored, understood, respected and facilitated as much as possible. Consider the following:

- Does the whānau have multi-generational members (including younger tamariki and/or elderly members who may be more at risk of infection such as kaumātua and kuia) living in the home?
- Are there added vulnerabilities present for this whānau that need to be considered?
- Do they have underlying fears or anxiety about COVID-19 that may cause them to appear resistant to our visits or reluctant to engage?

### **Engaging with tamariki, rangatahi and whānau Māori about the vaccine**

We have an important role to support addressing barriers to vaccinations for whānau Māori, including acknowledging the systemic barriers Māori face. Trust is a significant part of supporting vaccination.

[Talking about COVID-19 vaccination with whānau Māori – tip sheet, short messages and quick questions | The Workshop](#)

### **Expressions of manaakitanga**

While engaging with whānau you may also be able to respond in a range of ways to support whānau to manage the COVID-19 environment. Consider such things as:

- providing information about local resources such as Whānau Ora services, food parcels, vaccination information, and connection with online whānau activities
- financial supports through Work and Income
- connection with whakapapa and whanaungatanga networks and iwi links to the supports they are providing their tribal members.

**Working with iwi, Māori service providers and hāpori Māori (communities)**

Ensure you have maintained contact with local iwi, Māori service providers and communities to understand how they are responding and adapting their activities and service provision.

Consider the following:

- How can we work with our Māori communities at this time to reduce multiple people intervening in whānau lives?
- How can we support Māori communities' vaccination strategy?
- The oranga of these partners when determining how to work alongside them appropriately to support whānau. Taking care that we are not exposing them to increased health risks as their workforce may also be more vulnerable to the impacts of COVID-19 as part of the disparities of the wider Māori population.

**Nāu i whatu te kākahu, he tāniko tāku.**

*You weave the foundational garment and we support its beauty.*