



## **Auckland City Centre Residents' Group MEDIA RELEASE**

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Auckland city centre apartment dwellers are showing the way for the rest of the country with high rates of Covid-19 vaccinations.

“With nearly 65 percent fully vaccinated and over 90 percent with one dose we’re leading the fight against the Covid pandemic” says Central City Residents’ Group spokesman Antony Phillips.

“The CCRG is fully on board the Government’s campaign to vaccinate the whole country so we can open up again,” says Phillips. “Everyone is keen for Auckland’s businesses to be able to open their doors for business again but we must vaccinate nearly everyone first.”

Only vaccine hesitancy is stopping us enjoying the economic and social freedom we had before this latest outbreak of Delta hit in August, he says.

Auckland’s 40,000 downtown residents have some of the highest vaccinate rates in the country. Vaccination rates are significantly lower in parts of South and West Auckland with some suburbs at barely 50% fully vaccinated.

“Most of the downtown residents are apartment dwellers so they are acutely aware how important it is to get vaccinated to protect themselves and others,” he adds.

Having vaccinations readily available at pharmacies downtown and at Auckland University has boosted the uptake. Asian residents who make up nearly 40% of the city centre population are also the most vaccinated of any ethnic group in New Zealand.

“We are so proud that the residents we represent are leading the charge to get the whole country vaccinated against Covid. It has been a wonderful effort and we’re fully behind everything the Government is doing to beat the virus.”

The CCRG is also strongly opposed to any further anti-lockdown or anti-vaccine rallies in the central city like the recent rally led by Brian Tamaki in the Domain.

“It’s appalling that any group would willingly breach public health protections during a deadly pandemic,” says Phillips. “We must all work together to defeat this virus.”

**Antony Phillips**

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