
LEARNINGS FROM ALCOHOL DELIVERIES DURING COVID-19 ALERT LEVEL 4

These learnings are a compilation of what we found out when we posted a thought provoking question to the Healthy Families Hutt Valley Facebook page during Covid-19 Alert Level 4 (lockdown). The question we asked was 'Should alcohol deliveries be essential during lockdown?'. We asked people to react with a 'thumbs up' for yes, 'surprised face' for maybe and an 'angry' face if they disagreed with the question. The post attracted a total of 341 reactions, comments and shares. The findings below represent thoughts and comments on the post from people across the Hutt Valley.



154 people 'liked' the question asked. Indicating that they thought alcohol deliveries should be essential during lockdown. People who agreed, did so for two main reasons. The first reason was an economic one, that alcohol was a commodity and businesses were within their rights to sell and deliver. The second reason which came through very strongly from a number of people focussed on alcohol withdrawal.



There were strong opinions regarding forcing people who may be addicted to alcohol into withdrawal. People felt that the impact of alcohol withdrawal had far greater consequences than alcohol not being delivered during lockdown. Some people commented that people can die from alcohol withdrawal and forcing people to go 'cold turkey' would be unsafe.



95 people reacted to the post indicating that they felt alcohol deliveries during lockdown were not essential for a few different reasons. Some indicated they supported beer and wine being sold in supermarkets but some did not agree with bottle stores (selling spirits) being open during Alert Level 4 and did not agree with alcohol being delivered.



Some people indicated they did not agree with alcohol being delivered because they felt there was not enough checks and balances in place to ensure the alcohol was being received by someone over the age of 18.



There was a strong view that alcohol was not essential to survival and lockdown was designed to save lives. A number of people commented that alcohol was a contributor to family harm which was exacerbated during lockdown and there was a strong concern for tamariki.

The commentary highlighted how complex this issue is and more work is needed to understand it. We want to continue this conversation and create a movement to work together with partners and communities to create effective solutions to reduce the harm from alcohol across the Hutt Valley.

If you want to join us on the movement to reduce the harm from alcohol across the Hutt Valley, get in touch with us at healthyfamilieshuttvalley@huttcity.govt.nz