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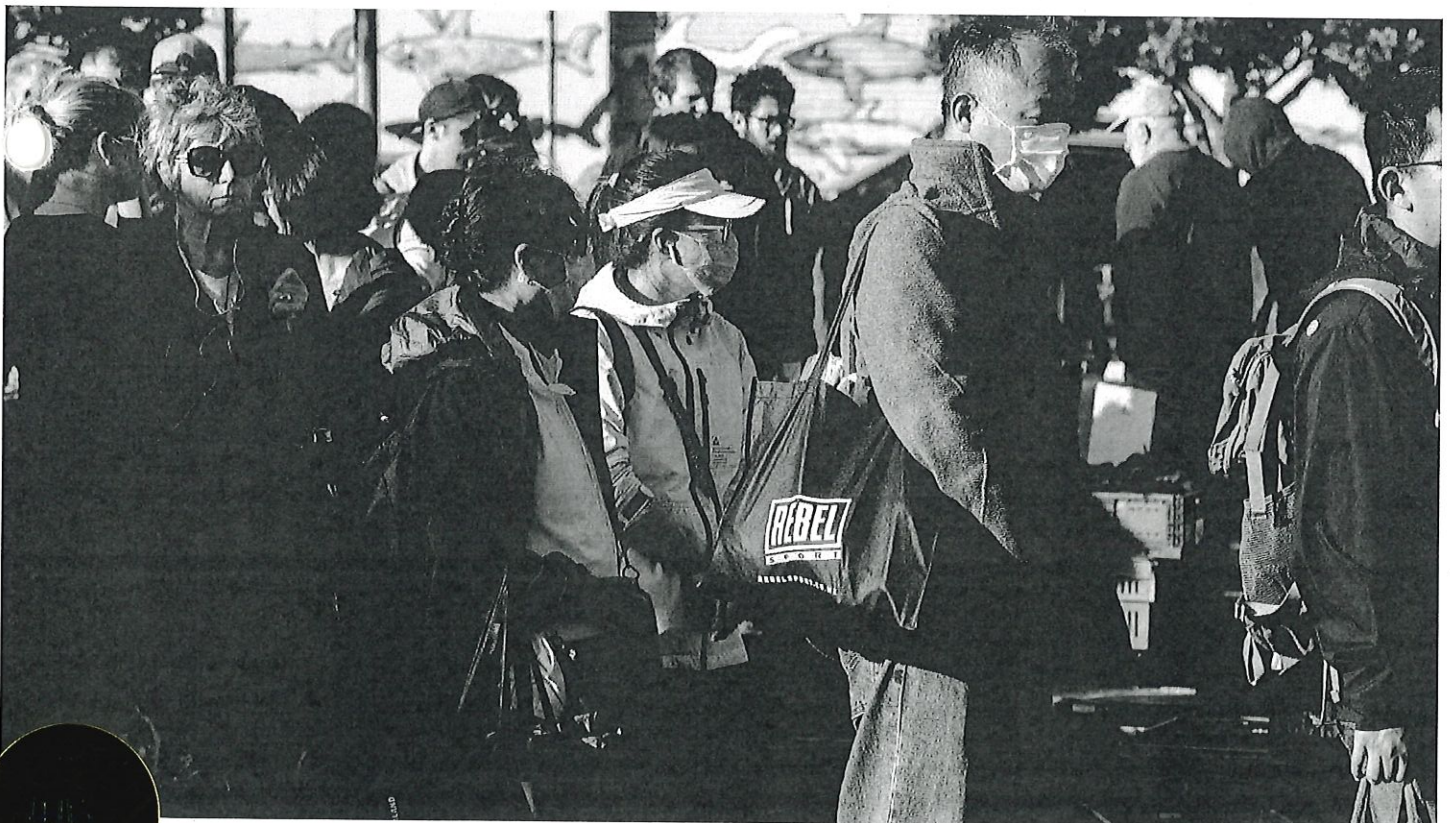
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## Coronavirus: Top cop Mike Bush to lead new taskforce, says police will enforce new rules

Henry Cooke · 08:24, Mar 23 2020





The head of a new Government coronavirus task-force says people should ring the police if they see people or venues obviously flouting rules around social distancing or self-isolation.

Outgoing Police Commissioner Mike Bush has been appointed to lead the new operational taskforce to fight the virus, which has now infected 66 in New Zealand.

The taskforce would take in all pillars of Government - not just police, with about 70 officials homed on Wellington's Lambton Quay at the Evidence Based Policing Centre.



MONIQUE FORD/STUFF

Mike Bush wants Kiwis to ring the cops if they see anyone flouting new coronavirus rules.

But police were a crucial part of the response with increased patrols in high-risk areas for coronavirus infections, particularly if the the new "alert level" rose from level two upwards.

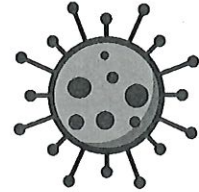
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"If people aren't proscribing to what's being directed we will definitely be intervening...People need to listen to the advice that is given, listen to the rules that are laid now - it's all about saving people's lives."

This could include enforcing social distancing and keeping the peace at places like supermarkets.

Bush said that if the public saw people obviously flouting the rules they should ring the non-emergency 105 number, or if it was urgent call 111.

"We will respond. We will intervene. People need to comply to the directions that are given."

