



Tertiary Provider and International Bulletin

Friday 20 August 2021

COVID-19 Update

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Community transmission and alert level update

There are now a number of community cases of COVID-19 in the Auckland region and Wellington region. As a result, the government has confirmed that **New Zealand will continue to remain in Alert Level 4 until Tuesday 11.59pm. Further decisions will be announced on Monday afternoon.**

New Zealand's return to Alert Level 4 can be unsettling, and this uncertainty can have an impact on mental health. It's important to remember that our approach has worked to date. We have stamped out COVID-19 before and we can do it again.

The number one priority continues to be the welfare of students and staff and ensuring they remain safe and well during this time. We encourage providers to continue to familiarise themselves with their [international](#) and [domestic pastoral code](#) obligations (see also the interim code guidance [here](#)). The Ministry of Health website contains a useful range of mental health and wellbeing resources your staff might need for themselves or to assist students, they can be found [here](#).

COVID-19 vaccination information

Vaccination sites will continue to operate under Alert Level 4 conditions; however capacity will be reduced due to physical distancing requirements and other safety measures. Unless you have been contacted to reschedule your appointment, please attend your vaccination appointment.

Everyone in New Zealand aged 16 and over will be able to be vaccinated by the end of this year. By getting vaccinated, you'll be protecting yourself and playing your part to protect New Zealand. It will save lives.



You can go online to [BookMyVaccine.nz](https://bookmyvaccine.nz), the new national booking system, or phone the COVID Vaccination Healthline on 0800 28 29 26 to reserve your spot.

Detailed advice on COVID-19 vaccination is available from the Ministry of Health, which can be accessed [here](#).

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment has advice on COVID-19 vaccination and employment [here](#).

Essential Workers

The Government is expanding the list of essential workers eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccination to include frontline staff who interact with customers and transport and logistics services directly supporting the vaccination programme. These people will be included in Group 2 in our vaccine prioritisation roll out. This group will cover frontline (non-border) health care workers and at-risk people living in settings with a high risk of transmission or exposure to COVID-19.

The new Group 2(c) includes people who work in accommodation services (which includes tertiary accommodation providers) and school hostels. The expanded list of essential workers can be read in [Schedule 2](#) of the [COVID-19 Public Health Response \(Alert Level Requirements\) Order \(No 9\) 2021](#).

People in these workplaces will be able to receive vaccinations as soon as possible and DHBs will work directly with employers of Group 2(c) workers to organise vaccinations.

Alert Level 4 - Government advice for tertiary education organisations

We will update the alert level guidance for tertiary education organisations to reflect current Alert Level 4 settings soon. In the meantime, please continue to follow the overarching principles and the advice we have provided in our previous Bulletins.

- All tertiary education facilities continue to be closed with the exception of student accommodation, and they are deemed as 'essential services.'
- Providers should continue to deliver education remotely where possible. This includes examinations, lectures, assessments, workshops, etc.
- Gathering of people at tertiary facilities is not allowed.

Tertiary student accommodation

- Tertiary student accommodation is an 'essential service' and will remain open.
- Staff that work in student accommodation will live on site (if possible). Staff and students will be within a bubble in the accommodation (with contact contained within smaller bubbles in that accommodation). Students and staff living in tertiary accommodation should observe strict physical distancing, infection prevention measures, and 'bubbles' should be maintained at all times. For example, close contact should be limited to people of the same 'bubble' (which may be a single floor in a halls of residence); common social and recreation areas should be closed (except those shared by a single 'bubble'); and there should be split shift access to common areas for staff.
- Providers must support the safety and wellbeing of students and allow them to self-isolate, as required.

Tertiary provider site access

As announced today, tertiary staff can go on site for the purpose of collecting necessary items to allow them to work remotely **or collating and sending educational resources** to students who are otherwise unable to access resources remotely and may undertake contactless deliveries to those students or arrange for couriers to undertake those deliveries.

Staff should be onsite for a minimum amount of time, and if more than one staff member is onsite, physical distancing requirements must be maintained at all times and face coverings must be worn.



Any tertiary staff undertaking deliveries to students or collecting items will be required wear a face covering and keep physically distanced from others (at least two metres). There must also be no physical contact between staff and the person receiving the educational resources. **Students are also not permitted to pick-up educational resources from TEOs.**

Further information on site access is available in the [previous Bulletin](#) and on the [COVID-19 Public Health Response \(Alert Level Requirements\) Order \(No 9\) 2021](#).

Financial support for businesses

Information about financial support for business is available on the Unite against COVID-19 [website](#).

Stress counselling and support

During this time, it's natural to feel emotionally and physically drained. You're not alone in this and you don't need to cope on your own. Friends and family members not affected by the event can help you cope.

You can get more help and information from:

- your education provider
- your GP or local community health centre
- Youthline at [0800 376 633](tel:0800376633) or www.youthline.co.nz
- [Need to Talk](#) by calling or texting [1737](tel:1737)

In an emergency always call [111](tel:111).

Locations of interest

We encourage you to continue to check the Ministry of Health's locations of interest page to find out if you might have been exposed to COVID-19. If you were potentially exposed, follow the guidance for the particular location of interest, which is on the same page:

[COVID-19: Contact tracing locations of interest | Ministry of Health NZ](#)

The Ministry of Health continues to remind everyone to please remain vigilant and stick to the basics:

- If you're sick, stay home. Do not go to work or school. Do not socialise.
- If you have cold, flu or COVID-19 symptoms, call your doctor or Healthline on 0800 358 5453 and get advice about getting tested.
- If you have been told to self-isolate, you legally must do so immediately.

Things change quickly so stay up to date by following the links below:

For health advice, please refer to the Ministry of Health's website.

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>

For cross-agency information about COVID-19, including what support is available, health advice, and travel restrictions visit the All-of-Government website <https://www.govt.nz/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/>

For resources in Te Reo Māori, visit <https://covid19.govt.nz/updates-and-resources/translations/te-reo-maori/>

For information to support Pacific communities, visit

<https://www.facebook.com/MinistryforPacificPeoples/>



For resources in [sign language and easy read formats](#).

Free counselling/Psychology Service in response to COVID-19 for Migrants and Former Refugees: [Diversity Counselling New Zealand](#) | [DCNZ Hamilton](#) | [Contact Us for help](#)

To keep updated on travel restrictions and visa information visit <https://www.immigration.govt.nz/about-us/media-centre/news-notifications/coronavirus-update-inz-response>

Advice for international students in NZ <https://naumainz.studyinnewzealand.govt.nz/help-and-advice/healthcare/the-coronavirus-what-you-need-to-know>

For additional advice for tertiary providers/whare wānanga visit the Ministry of Education website <http://www.education.govt.nz/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-3/>

