



Bulletin – Tertiary Provider and International Bulletin

Monday 5 October 2020

COVID-19 update – change in Alert Levels

The Prime Minister has advised the outcome of the review of Alert Level settings for Auckland, made by Cabinet today.

From 11.59pm Wednesday 7 October, Auckland will join the remainder of New Zealand, and move to Alert Level 1.

While this is good news, COVID-19 will be with us for many months to come. New cases in our communities remain a possibility, as happened with this recent resurgence in Auckland. It is important we avoid complacency and remain vigilant.

NZ COVID Trace App QR code posters continue to be required to be on display at Alert Level 1 and you will need to be ready to support health authorities with contact tracing, should new cases emerge in your community.

Public health measures will also help to reduce transmission of illness:

- maintain your good cleaning and disinfecting practices
- keep encouraging good hygiene standards
- people who are unwell should stay away, and seek medical advice
- everyone should get tested if recommended to do so by health professionals.

Face coverings are not required on public transport at Alert Level 1 but continue to be an option for individuals.

For more detailed information on public health measures for tertiary providers at Alert Level 1, [please refer to our website](#). General information and information can also be found on the [COVID19.govt.nz website](#).

Guidance for TEOs on examinations at different Alert Levels

TEOs should have plans worked out for how they will run exams at different Alert Levels. We encourage TEOs to maintain an open and ongoing dialogue with their students and staff about arrangements for



examinations. Particular consideration should be given to students and staff who are considered 'at risk' (or live with others who are 'at risk'), and alternative arrangements for these individuals may be needed.

The number one priority remains the welfare of staff and students and ensuring that they remain safe and well through the examination period.

On-site examinations are allowed at Alert Levels 1, 2 and 3

On-site tertiary-level exams are able to proceed at Alert Levels 2 and 3, though strict physical distancing of at least 1.5 metres must be in place. Because of these physical distancing requirements, there are no restrictions on the number of students attending an examination in a single venue (even Alert Level 3), though capacity must be managed to ensure physical distancing is maintained at all times.

TEOs may decide to conduct some examinations online regardless of Alert Level (where this is possible) to ensure that sufficient space is available for those assessments which can only be conducted on-site.

In the unlikely case that a region or regions were placed under Alert Level 4, exams will not be able to go ahead in those regions as TEOs must close their facilities.

Rules for on-site examinations at Alert Levels 1, 2, and 3

- If a TEO is at the centre of or implicated in an outbreak or cluster and/or has been closed by a Medical Officer of Health, exams will not be able to take place until public health authorities give approval.
- Anyone (students and staff) who is unwell should stay away.
- Those students identified as close contacts of a confirmed case should not attend their exam(s).
- Handwashing before entering the exam room (hand sanitiser at the entrance to the room would be ideal).
- High touch surfaces should be cleaned regularly - before each exam session is recommended.
- If operating exams at Alert Level 2 or 3, TEOs should ensure there is a gap of 1.5 metres between students in all directions.
- Because physical distancing will be in place for examinations, there are no specific restrictions on the number of students attending an examination in a single venue at Alert Levels 1, 2, and 3, though if operating at Alert Levels 2 or 3, capacity must be managed to ensure physical distancing of 1.5 metres is maintained at all times.
- Students should be observed by staff on arrival checking for symptoms and asking those presenting as unwell to make arrangements to go home.
- A room should be available to isolate a student (or staff member) who may become unwell during the exam.
- Contact tracing systems, including the display of COVID Tracer App QR codes, should be in place.
- Face coverings are not required in any exam setting (unless this is a normal part of that examination), however individuals who choose to wear a face covering should be supported to do so.
- Use rooms where you can ensure good ventilation.

At Alert Level 2, TEOs should give consideration to how they will encourage students to keep a reasonable distance from each other before entering and leaving the exam room.



At Alert Level 3, there are some **additional requirements** for any on-site exams to proceed – these can be found [here](#).

For regular teaching and learning activities (other than exams), TEOs should follow the rules set out in the [detailed guidelines for TEOs at different Alert Levels](#).

Increase in class ‘bubble size’ at Alert Level 3

When TEOs have been operating at Alert Level 3 in the past, for classes/workshops etc. where it was not possible to deliver teaching online, small and stable class ‘bubbles’ of up to 10 students and staff were allowed, provided physical distancing of at least 1 metre and contact tracing measures were in place.

If a region (or regions) were to move up to Alert Level 3 again in the future, TEOs in those areas may now run small and stable class bubbles of **up to 20** students and staff.

TEOs may run on-site workshop/lab/classes etc. at Alert Level 3 if the following conditions are met:

- It is not possible to deliver that particular piece of teaching online.
- The bubble is limited to 20 persons or less (including the staff and students), and students and staff cannot be part of different bubbles.
- At least 1 metre physical distancing and contact tracing measures (including COVID Tracer App QR Codes) must be in place.
- Courses where close contact is unavoidable must remain online only (e.g. physiotherapy).
- TEOs must ensure any on-site workshop/lab/class etc. is 2 hours or less in duration and takes place in a well-ventilated area.
- Any equipment/tool used by one student must be sanitised before it is used by another student within the same class bubble (or used by a different bubble).
- In addition to ensuring different class bubbles do not come into direct contact, where possible, TEOs should also ensure separate bathroom/kitchen facilities are used by each class bubble (unless these facilities are sanitised between different groups use them).

Note that this bubble size limit does not apply to examinations, but that there are a different set of requirements for running on-site examinations at Alert Level 3.



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](#).

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>

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

