



Bulletin – Tertiary Provider and International Bulletin

24th August, 2020

COVID-19 UPDATE

Alert level status

The government has announced that the **Auckland Region will remain at Alert Level 3** and the **remainder of New Zealand will remain at Alert Level 2, until 11.59pm on Sunday 30th August**. From midnight Sunday:

- Auckland will transition into Alert L2, though mass gatherings will generally be restricted to 10.
- The **rest of New Zealand** will remain at Alert Level 2.
- Face coverings will become mandatory on public transport at Alert Level 2 and above

You will be familiar with the alert level guidance for tertiary education organisations (TEOs), however for quick reference on how to operate under different Alert Levels, [click here](#).

The number one priority remains the welfare of staff and students, and ensuring that they remain safe and well during this time. 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](#).

Private Training Establishment (PTE) Targeted Assistance Fund

The long- term recovery plan for international education includes a \$10 million fund for Private Training Establishments (PTEs), including English language schools, to buffer the sharp decline in revenue and maintain a foundation of PTEs for the recovery phase.

The Tertiary Education Commission, with support from the Ministry of Education, are managing this fund and are likely to open applications for the PTE Targeted Assistance Fund on 31st August, 2020. Applications will open for a two week period. Funding decisions will be finalised, and payments will be made in early October, 2020. We will provide you with updates if there are any delays.



New Health Order now in effect

A new Health Order was signed late last week which came into effect from midnight Saturday 22 August.

The new order does not significantly change any of the settings for how TEO's should be operating under each Alert Level. However, there is a new requirement in this Order that a range of businesses (including venue businesses), must not only put up NZ COVID Tracer App QR codes at main entrances to buildings, but must also ensure (to the greatest extent practicable) that each person who enters the building scans these QR codes. TEO's should also do what they can to ensure staff and students scan QR codes as they enter different areas around campus.

We acknowledge that TEO's already have a range of processes in place for ensuring accurate contact tracing information is being recorded – these processes should also now include NZ Tracer App QR codes. While it may be challenging to ensure people comply with these contact tracing measures (particularly at Level 2, where there are likely to be many more students and staff on-site), having detailed and accurate contact tracing information will allow us to quickly get on top of any future COVID-19 cases that may appear in the community.

We would also like to remind providers that non-education related businesses operating on a tertiary campus (such as pharmacies, bookstores, cafes, etc.) should comply with the Level 3 and 2 restrictions that apply to their type of business, rather than restrictions that apply specifically to TEOs.

Student's readiness for tertiary study.

The Ministry of Education and NZQA are focused on ensuring the re-emergence of COVID-19 in the community does not prevent secondary schools from completing internal assessments and preparing students for external assessments.

We are working to make sure students have a fair opportunity for their learning to be recognised, while protecting the integrity which is essential for NCEA and University Entrance to be valid indicators of readiness for tertiary study.

In response to the disruption students have faced this year, changes have been made to NCEA and University Entrance (UE) to give students a fair opportunity to achieve qualifications and awards despite the disruption to teaching, learning and assessment from COVID-19. The key changes are:

- UE requirements have been reduced from 14 credits to 12 credits in three UE-approved subjects. Students still need to attain NCEA Level 3 and meet literacy and numeracy requirements to be awarded University Entrance.
- Students working towards NCEA can gain additional credits, based on the number of credits they achieve during the 2020 school year. For every 5 credits a student attains towards their NCEA either through internal or external assessment, they can be awarded 1 additional credit. Students at NCEA Level 1 are eligible for up to a maximum of 10 additional credits while those at Levels 2 and 3 are eligible for up to a maximum of 8 additional credits.
- Students will be awarded a certificate endorsement if they achieve 46 credits at Merit or Excellence level, rather than the usual 50. Students achieving 12 credits at Merit or Excellence level in a course – rather than 14 – will be awarded a course endorsement.

For more information, see the NZQA website <https://www.nzqa.govt.nz/about-us/news/ncea-and-university-entrance-changes-for-2020/>.



NZQA's immediate focus is on providing support to schools and kura around collecting evidence so that they can award valid, fair grades to students if anything disrupts their participation in external assessments. This is a standard procedure which schools apply every year in case an individual or group of students aren't able to participate fully in exams.

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 information 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/>

