



Tertiary Provider and International Bulletin

Tuesday 19 October 2021

COVID-19 Update

- **Auckland COVID-19 Alert Level update**
- **Regions outside of Auckland Alert Level settings**
- **COVID-19 mandatory vaccinations for the delivery of secondary-tertiary education**
- **Further announcements on vaccinations in the tertiary sector**
- **Extension to programme length**
- **Email address for all tertiary and international COVID-19 related queries**

Auckland COVID-19 Alert Level update:

On Monday 18 October, the Prime Minister announced that Auckland will continue to remain at Alert Level 3, Step 1, for another two weeks, following Cabinet's review of the phased approach to shifting down Alert Level 3 restrictions. This means that Auckland continues to remain at Alert Level 3, but:

- outdoor gatherings of up to 10 people can go ahead
- travel anywhere in the Auckland region for exercise, sports or recreation outdoors is allowed
- early learning centres can reopen to all children, with a maximum of 10 children in each bubble.

These settings will be reviewed again by Cabinet on Monday 1 November. More information on [Alert Level 3](#) is available on the Unite Against COVID-19 website.

Our detailed guidance for tertiary education providers for Alert Level 3 is unchanged and can be found on our [website](#).

On Wednesday, Minister Hipkins will present decisions about onsite learning in schools.. We will issue a further Bulletin letting you know about the decision and hope to be able to discuss options and a timetable for reopening other parts of the education sector, including tertiary, soon.

On Friday, the Prime Minister will announce new details of the COVID-19 protection framework. We will send a tertiary and international bulletin following that announcement that will focus on our sector.

Regions outside of Auckland Alert Level settings

Waikato areas

The above Alert Level 3 restrictions do not apply to the Waikato Alert Level 3 areas (Raglan, Te Kauwhata, Huntly, Ngāruawāhia, Hamilton Waitomo District, including Te Kuiti, Waipa District, Ōtorohanga District, Hamilton City and some surrounding areas). On Monday 18 October, Cabinet reviewed these settings and announced that the affected Waikato areas will remain in Alert level 3 with these settings to be reviewed



on Friday 22 October. For general Alert Level advice for those in an area of the Waikato at Alert Level 3, please see the Unite Against COVID-19 website [here](#).

Northland Area

On Monday 18 October, Cabinet reviewed the Alert Level settings for Northland and announced that Northland will remain at Alert Level 3 until 11:59pm on Tuesday 19 October and will move down to Alert Level 2 thereafter.

The rest of New Zealand outside of the affected Northland area, Waikato areas and Auckland region is currently at Alert Level 2.

COVID-19 vaccination requirements and secondary-tertiary education delivery

We have received a number of queries about whether staff delivering secondary-tertiary programmes (most commonly known as Trades Academies) will be required to be vaccinated under the ECE and schooling staff vaccination mandate when it is made.

When the mandatory vaccination requirement comes into force, it is anticipated it will apply to anyone delivering the programme on a school site, whether they are employed by the school, by a TEO or are a contractor. Staff who do not work on school sites are not included in this mandate.

Covid-19 vaccination and the tertiary education sector

We appreciate the feedback you have provided us to date and understand that there is a high level of interest in further information about COVID-19 vaccinations and the tertiary sector. We hope to be able to provide further information soon.

Extension to programme length

NZQA is committed to supporting all TEOs affected by the cumulative and ongoing Covid-19 Alert Levels. NZQA has become aware of TEOs that want/need to make changes to the length of their programme delivery in order to allow learners to complete their study.

TEOs that want to temporarily extend programme length should contact NZQA to discuss their plans providing the following information:

- i. The title of the programme[s],
- ii. approved duration (weeks) for the programme,
- iii. extension to programme duration required,
- iv. the number of learners affected,
- v. any other relevant information, such as projects/work integrated learning /internships etc.

Please contact NZQA at covid19.enquiries@nzqa.govt.nz

You should also discuss your plans to extend with StudyLink, TEC or Immigration New Zealand, as appropriate.

Please note that this approach does not apply to programmes of study that lead to registration with a regulatory body, such as Nursing Council New Zealand, the Midwifery Council, the Social Workers Registration Board or the Teaching Council of Aotearoa New Zealand; any request to extend these programmes must be discussed jointly with NZQA and the relevant body.

Email address for all tertiary and international COVID-19 related queries

A central mailbox has been set-up for all queries related to COVID-19 - COVID19.Tertiary@education.govt.nz. We are introducing this email address to ensure there is a central point of contact that we can monitor.

We will continue to meet with the sector regularly.



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>

Please continue to check the **Ministry of Health's locations of interest page** to find out if you might have been exposed to COVID-19 [COVID-19: Contact tracing locations of interest](#) | [Ministry of Health NZ](#)

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>

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/>

