



## Tertiary Provider and International Bulletin

Wednesday 22 September 2021

### COVID-19 Update

- COVID-19 Alert Level changes and Section 70 notice
- Rāhui | Alert Level 3 – Guidelines for TEOs and students in the Auckland region
- For students: Updated accommodation and travel guidance
- Whakaiti | Alert Level 2 – Updated guidance on recommended capacity limits, on-site exams
- Stress and counselling support
- COVID-19: locations of interest and the basics

### COVID-19 Alert Level changes and Section 70 notice

Auckland has now moved to Alert Level 3 for at least two weeks with a review on Monday 4 October. Upper Hauraki is also now at Alert Level 3 and under a section 70 direction, with these settings under regular review. The rest of New Zealand stay at Alert Level 2 and will remain there while Auckland remains at higher Alert Levels.

General [Alert Level 3](#) information is available on the Unite Against COVID-19 website and the detailed guidance for tertiary education providers is available on our [website](#).

### Rāhui | Alert Level 3 – Guidelines for TEOs and students in the Auckland region

The [COVID-19 Public Health Response \(Alert Level Requirements\) Order \(No 12\) 2021](#) was confirmed late last night. We can confirm that our [Guidelines for Tertiary Education Organisations](#) are up-to-date, with the exception of updates we have made relating to cross-boundary travel. These updates are in line with guidance we provided in our bulletin yesterday, and are outlined below.

### For students: Updated accommodation and travel guidance

Our Alert Level 3 guidance for students in Auckland is as follows:

- Wherever possible, we recommend that students remain in their current accommodation while Auckland is at Alert Level 3.
- **Students may only move out of their accommodation in an Alert Level 3 area if they are relocating on a permanent or long-term basis to accommodation that is also in an Alert Level 3 area.** Students are strongly discouraged from moving into or returning to student accommodation at Alert Level 3 if they have been offsite for Alert Level 4, unless it is an emergency. Students must not change their accommodation if they have been directed by a medical officer of health to isolate.
- **Students in an Alert Level 3 area are not permitted to return to their primary home or place of residence in an Alert Level 2 area.** This means that students currently in Auckland are not able to relocate from Auckland without an exemption from the Director-General of Health. The threshold



for exemptions is extremely high. We understand this is frustrating for students in Auckland who are looking to return to their TEOs or permanent residences outside of Auckland. Please check out the resources in the stress counselling and support section below, and contact your TEO if you need assistance. Your TEO should be supporting you to engage in remote learning, and to manage your health and wellbeing.

The rules for cross-boundary travel **from** Alert Level 2 areas are consistent with our previous guidance:

- Students in **Alert Level 2 areas are permitted to travel to their principal home or place of residence in Alert Level 3 areas, i.e. Auckland**, but they will not be able to leave Auckland until it is at Alert Level 2.
- If necessary, students may travel from an Alert Level 2 area into, through, and out of an Alert Level 3 area (in one trip) to attend an education entity in an Alert Level 2 area to participate in an education programme they are enrolled in. Returning home into, through, and out of an Alert Level 3 area (in one trip) afterwards is also allowed. For example, a student may drive from their home in Waikato to their TEO in Northland when Auckland is at Alert Level 3, and return home. They must carry evidence of their purpose of travel and destination (e.g. proof of enrolment and proof of residential address, for their return trip), and photo ID. See [Personal travel across an Alert Level boundary | Unite against COVID-19 \(covid19.govt.nz\)](#).

### **Whakaiti | Alert Level 2 – Updated guidance on recommended capacity limits, on-site exams**

As we noted in yesterday's bulletin, indoor gatherings of up to 100 (previously 50) are now permitted at Alert Level 2. While social gathering limits do not apply to education-related activities at TEOs, we have reviewed our recommended capacity limits following this decision. We have also reviewed our Alert Level 2 on-site exam guidance.

#### *Recommended capacity limits*

We now recommend capacity limits for large teaching and learning spaces of a maximum of 200 staff and students, with physical distancing of 1-metre, at Alert Level 2. We previously recommended limits of 100 staff and students.

As a reminder:

- TEOs should have protocols in place to ensure staff, students and visitors maintain physical distancing when entering and leaving teaching and learning spaces as appropriate – for example, 'one-way doors' for entrances and exits, adjusting timetabling to provide more time in between classes, or requiring face coverings if 1-metre physical distancing is not practicable.
- TEOs should also ensure contact tracing information that identifies which students and staff (and any other visitors) have been in each controlled learning space, and at what time, is collected – whether through the NZ COVID Tracer App, or other means.
- Face coverings are strongly recommended for students and staff in teaching and learning spaces. While face coverings are not mandatory under the Health Order, providers have their usual rights to set rules for conduct on their premises.

#### *On-site examinations*

We have made changes to our examination guidance for Alert Level 2, recognising the controlled nature of the examination environment and to ensure consistency with learning space guidance:

- We now recommend strict physical distancing of at least 1-metre (previously 1.5-metres) should be in place in examinations.
- There are no Health Order restrictions on the number of students attending an examination in a single venue. We previously recommended that TEOs limit capacity at a single examination venue to a maximum of 100 staff and students, and we now recommend that TEOs limit numbers where practicable. As a reminder, contact tracing systems, including the display of COVID Tracer App QR codes, should be in place. We continue to strongly recommend that face coverings are worn.

You can now find examination guidance for TEOs at each alert level in our [Guidelines for Tertiary Education Organisations](#).



## Stress counselling and support

This will continue to be an unsettling time, and the uncertainty of COVID-19 can have an impact on our mental wellbeing. We continue to remind staff and students that mental wellbeing is important, and can be supported through accessing a range of the self-help resources:

- Mental Wealth by **Le Va** provides online resources to help young people look after their mental health, and includes online counselling: <https://www.mentalwealth.nz/>
- **The Lowdown** provides videos and articles about anxiety and depression and also includes support through a free 24/7 helpline, text and webchat: <https://thelowdown.co.nz/>
- **Aroha** is a chatbot to help young people cope with stress: <https://portal.habits.auckland.ac.nz/Portal/#/landing-covid19bot-trial>

There are also a number of helplines that are available and can connect people to trained counsellors. These include:

- **1737** which is available 24/7 via free call or text
- **Youthline** which can be accessed by calling 0800 376 633 or by free texting 234. Youthline also has a web chat function
- **OUTline** has a free helpline available between 6pm and 9pm for members of the rainbow community. This can be accessed by calling 0800 688 5463.
- If you have immediate concerns for the safety of yourself or someone else, please call 111.

In addition to the support and services available to all New Zealanders, there are Pacific mental health and addiction providers that have activated pandemic plans and are supporting their communities digitally where possible. These providers include:

- [Pasifika Futures](#) in Waitematā, Canterbury and Counties Manukau
- [Fonua Ola](#) in Counties Manukau
- [Kāute Pasifika](#) in Waikato
- [Pacific Health Service Hutt Valley](#) and [Naku Enei](#) in the Hutt Valley
- [Vaka Tautua](#) in Capital and Coast DHB and Auckland Ministry of Health

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

## COVID-19: basics

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.
- In an emergency always call [111](#).

## 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/>

