



## Tertiary Provider and International Bulletin

Friday 27 August 2021

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### COVID-19 Alert Level update

The Prime Minister announced this afternoon that all of New Zealand will continue to stay in Alert Level 4 until 11:59pm on Tuesday 31 August.

From Wednesday 1 September, New Zealand, outside of Auckland and Northland, will shift into Alert Level 3. Auckland and Northland will stay in Alert Level 4, for a currently undetermined period of time, with a decision to be made on Monday.

What we're doing is working. As we heard, Delta moves quickly, and the current outbreak in Auckland is larger than the original outbreak in March 2020. The Government's decision to keep minimising contact is limiting the spread of cases.

Keep up the great work: continue to stay home; keep wearing a face covering. Providers and student communities are integral to this response. Koia kei a koutou – you've got this.

### Alert Level 4 – key guidance

TEOs and students should continue to follow the updated Alert Level 4 guidance in our [Guidelines for Tertiary Education Organisations](#). All tertiary education facilities should continue to be closed except for necessary student accommodation, and those deemed as 'Essential services.'

Further detailed information on [Alert Level 4 guidelines](#) is available on the COVID-19 website.

### Preparing for Alert Level 3

While we wait for the COVID-19 Public Health Response (Alert Level Requirements) Orders (Health Order) to be confirmed, the Public Health team at the Ministry of Health has closely reviewed our current Alert Level 3 guidance for tertiary education organisations.



Based on public health advice at this time, Alert Level 3 will mean the following:

- Any class, lab, workshop, etc. that cannot be delivered online must be **limited to 10 people or less**. Each such group is considered a 'bubble' and must not interact with any other student/staff bubbles of 10. For example, a student may attend a class, lab or workshop with a group of other students (of up to 10 students and staff), but not then move on to multiple other classes with different groups. The staff member must not have multiple 'bubbles' of students.
- Due to the increased risk of the Delta variant, **on-site examinations will only be allowed at Alert Level 3** for existing student/staff bubbles of 10, where it has not been possible to deliver teaching online. We will update our requirements for on-site tertiary exams at Alert Level 3 shortly.
- Staff who are at a higher risk from severe illness because of COVID-19 should not work onsite at Alert Level 3 unless they are fully vaccinated ([head to Unite Against COVID-19 for more information](#))

In addition to the Alert Level 3 requirements that apply to all New Zealanders, these new recommendations by Public Health further support a lowering of risk for staff and students on campus.

We will provide full and updated guidance for Alert Level 3 in a future bulletin, and update our [guidelines for tertiary education organisation](#) to reflect the Public Health advice, as well as the requirements noted in the Health Order as soon as this becomes available.

This will include more guidance on whether students in Alert Level 3 areas will be allowed to relocate and in what circumstances. We reiterate that students must continue to remain in their current accommodation at Alert Level 4. **Relocation is not permitted.**

#### **International Code obligations for under-18 international students in Managed Isolation & Quarantine (MIQ)**

In the event that an under-18 international student tests positive for Covid-19 and has to enter MIQ, international Code signatory providers need to consider their international Code obligations alongside MOH orders and MIQ regulations.

Please contact NZQA via 0800 697 296 (and ask to be put through to the Code team) or [code.enquiries@nzqa.govt.nz](mailto:code.enquiries@nzqa.govt.nz), if you require further assistance in regard to the international Code.

#### **Activation of alternative ID verification process**

TEOs receiving on-Plan funding from the TEC are required to verify learner identity and eligibility for enrolment, usually by sighting an original or certified copy of an identity document.

This may not be possible while COVID-19 restrictions are in place. Therefore, TEOs are authorised to accept identification documents submitted electronically, such as a scanned copy or a photo emailed to your organisation.

If a learner is unable to provide a certified copy of their identification document, they must make a declaration to state that they have submitted a true copy of the original document. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, this is an acceptable form of identity verification until further notice. We suggest that you make a template of that declaration for all enrolling learners. The learner's declaration must be provided in the form prescribed below.



*I certify that every document I have submitted as part of the enrolment process at [TEO name] is a true copy of the original document. I will produce the original if requested by [TEO name] at a future date.*  
*Full name: [full name as per identification document]*  
*Signature: [pen or electronic signature]*  
*Date: [insert]*

If you have any questions, please contact the TEC Customer Contact Group on 0800 601 301 or [customerservice@tec.govt.nz](mailto:customerservice@tec.govt.nz)

### **Independent Assurance Practitioners Reviews and the Student Fee Protection Audit**

NZQA has extended the deadline from 31 August to 30 September for those providers who are due to lodge their Independent Assurance Practitioners Reviews and the Student Fee Protection Audit Opinions.

### **COVID-19: locations of interest, vaccines and the basics**

#### *Locations of interest*

With a high number of locations of interest, we ask that providers continue to be diligent and contact their stakeholders directly, as they have been doing, if they become a location of interest.

#### *Vaccines*

You can go online to the national booking system [BookMyVaccine.nz](https://bookmyvaccine.nz), 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](#).

#### *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/>

**Stress counselling and support is available.** Friends and family members can help you to cope.

You can also get 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](https://www.youthline.co.nz) or by calling or texting [1737](tel:1737)

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/>

