



## Tertiary Provider and International Bulletin

Wednesday 3 November 2021

### COVID-19 Update

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### COVID-19 Alert Levels

#### *Waikato areas Alert Level setting*

On Monday 1 November, the Prime Minister announced that the Waikato areas currently at Alert Level 3, Step 1 settings (Raglan, Te Kauwhata, Huntly, Ngāruawāhia, Hamilton Waitomo District, including Te Kuiti, Waipa District, Ōtorohanga District, Hamilton City and some surrounding areas) will shift down to Alert Level 3, Step 2 from 11.59pm Tuesday 2 November 2021.

#### *Auckland Alert Level setting*

The Prime Minister also announced that Auckland will shift down a step to Alert Level 3, Step 2, from Tuesday 9 November 11.59pm. This decision has been made in principle and will be confirmed by Cabinet on Monday 8 November.

#### *Northland area Alert Level setting*

On Tuesday 2 November, Minister Hipkins announced that the northern parts of the Northland area would move to Alert Level 3 last night at 11.59pm. Cabinet will review this alert level setting on Monday 8 November.

The rest of New Zealand outside of the affected Waikato areas, Auckland and Northland areas remains at Alert Level 2.

#### *Effect of Alert Level changes on our detailed guidelines*

We are seeking advice from the Ministry of Health as to whether TEO libraries are able to open under Alert Level 3, Step 2, and hope to provide an update tomorrow. In the meantime, our detailed guidance for tertiary education providers for Alert Level 3 (now containing changes reflecting the rules for retrieving belongings from student accommodation outlined below) is current and can be found on our [website](#).

Following feedback from the sector, the maximum number of people who can be in a staff/student bubble for on-site delivery (where remote delivery is not possible) is being reviewed. If an increase in bubble size is



approved, it is likely to take effect from 15 November. We will be able to confirm any decision the week beginning 8 November.

### **Travel guidance for students who need to retrieve their belongings from student accommodation**

Students who left their student accommodation (for example, left Auckland when the country went into lockdown) and now wish to return to their accommodation to retrieve their belongings and return to another Alert Level area may do so. This applies to students in both Alert Level 3 and Alert Level 2 areas.

Students in Alert Level 2 areas wishing to travel to an Alert Level 3 area to retrieve their belongings, and return home again are able to do so because it is part of a permanent relocation of their home at the end of tertiary study, which is allowed under the current Alert Level guidance.

The Unite Against COVID-19 website outlines the evidence requirements for this travel [here](#). Students who will need to leave Auckland as part of this retrieval process will need evidence of a negative COVID-19 test (or a medical certificate confirming you do not have COVID-19 symptoms and, for a particular physical or other need, are unable to have a COVID-19 test) with your test or medical examination undertaken no more than 72 hours prior to crossing the Alert Level boundary.

Those returning to student accommodation to retrieve their belongings are encouraged to contact their accommodation provider to make arrangements for collection in advance of doing so. Student accommodation providers will have processes in place to facilitate the safe re-entry of students into their premises for the purpose of collecting belongings.

The Alert Level guidance encourages student accommodation providers to put in place infection prevention measures including physical distancing, staggering students' access to accommodation to collect belongings, and mask wearing.

Our guidelines on student travel are now up to date and can be found on our [website](#).

### **Tertiary guidelines for the COVID-19 Protection Framework**

We are continuing to engage with the sector as we develop these guidelines, and we continue to welcome your queries and suggestions. Send them through to [COVID19.Tertiary@education.govt.nz](mailto:COVID19.Tertiary@education.govt.nz).

### **Be a doer! Karawhiua**

We can be proud of what we've done to protect each other from COVID-19. Let's not waste our hard mahi. You and your whānau can find trusted information on the Karawhiua website so you can make an informed choice about the COVID-19 vaccine.

[Karawhiua — Karawhiua - Protect Communities from COVID-19](#)

### **Two shots for summer**

Vaccination is our pass to unlock summer. Find where's close to get your dose on the Unite against COVID-19 — you can just walk in or drive through. Get 1 now. Get another in 3 weeks.

[2 shots for summer | Unite against COVID-19 \(covid19.govt.nz\)](#)

### **Vaccination resources**

You can access trusted information about vaccines, communications resources and conversation guides on the Unite against COVID-19 website. If you have a specific request, please email us

[COVID19.Tertiary@education.govt.nz](mailto:COVID19.Tertiary@education.govt.nz)

[COVID-19 vaccines | Unite against COVID-19 \(covid19.govt.nz\)](#)

### **NZ Vaccine Facts series: What else we can do to protect ourselves and others?**

This episode of NZ Vaccine Facts explains the need to keep up with simple health behaviours to help us stay on top of outbreaks.



You can make use of each episode and the complete series to inform and encourage those still undecided or hesitant about the importance of getting vaccinated.

You can access all episodes through the [COVID-19 Resource Toolkit](#) and on [YouTube](#).

**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](mailto: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 use this email address to send out future bulletins, also.

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/>

