



Tertiary Provider and International Bulletin

Tuesday 4 October 2021, morning

COVID-19 Update

- COVID-19 Alert Level update
- Alert Level 3 – Guidelines for TEOs and students in affected areas of the Waikato region

COVID-19 Alert Level update

Following news of cases of COVID-19 in the Waikato region yesterday, parts of the Waikato region have moved to Alert Level 3 overnight. The alert level will remain in place for five days and will be reviewed on Friday 8 October.

The areas moving to Alert Level 3 are Raglan, Te Kauwhata, Huntly, Ngāruawāhia and Hamilton. You can find the boundaries on the Unite Against COVID-19 website [here](#).

The key message for Alert Level 3 is stay at home, and stay local.

As a reminder for TEOs in the affected regions, we re-share key points from our Alert Level 3 guidance below. General [Alert Level 3](#) information is available on the Unite Against COVID-19 website and detailed guidance for tertiary education providers is available on our [website](#).

Cabinet is reviewing Alert Level settings today for Auckland, which is currently at Alert Level 3, and the rest of New Zealand other than the affected Waikato area, which is currently at Alert Level 2. We will issue another Bulletin if there are further changes announced.

Alert Level 3 – Guidelines for TEOs and students in affected areas of the Waikato region

TEOs in the Waikato areas that have moved to Alert Level 3 should follow the Alert Level 3 guidance in our [Guidelines for Tertiary Education Organisations](#). We set out the overarching principles and some key guidance below.

Overarching principles

At Alert Level 3, all guidance needs to be read and actioned with the following key principles in mind:

- All teaching and other activities should be carried out remotely, wherever possible.
- Where it is not possible to deliver teaching online, some facilities may remain open (e.g., for research, post-graduate teaching, lab/workshops).
- Any class, workshop, etc. that cannot be delivered online should be limited to 10 people or less. Each such group is considered a 'bubble' and should not interact with any other student/staff bubbles of 10. Contact tracing information that identifies which student/staff bubbles have met, and where and when they have met should be collected.



- For any on-site activities, appropriate infection control measures, such as physical distancing and face coverings, along with Worksafe requirements must be met at all times.

Key guidance

- On-site examinations at Alert Level 3 should only take place for existing students/staff bubbles of 10, where it has not been possible to deliver teaching online.
- At-risk and vulnerable people (or those caring for/living with vulnerable people) should not be required to carry out any on-site activities unless they are fully vaccinated. However, they may work on site if they wish to, and it is safe for them to do so.
- Libraries and computer labs may remain open where they are essential to education delivery and can be operated using closely monitored personal distancing conditions. There is a high bar for an activity to be considered essential to education delivery. Access to libraries or computer labs should only be allowed when the delivery of education cannot occur remotely, e.g., for research, postgraduate teaching, or labs.
- Face coverings must be worn at student health services and pharmacies where these are open. They are strongly recommended at all other times, particularly where physical distancing may be difficult.

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/>

