



Tertiary Provider and International Bulletin

Friday 5 November 2021

COVID-19 Update

- **Update on timeline for guidance for the new COVID-19 Protection Framework**
- **Update on guidance on opening libraries at Alert Level 3, Step 2**
- **Early childhood education and schooling workforce mandate coverage**
- **Email address for tertiary and international COVID-19 related queries and communications**

Today's bulletin focusses on the common themes for queries we are receiving through our COVID-19 Tertiary Mailbox. Please do continue to send your questions through.

Update on timeline for guidance for the new COVID-19 Protection Framework

We know tertiary education organisations and students are seeking further clarity about what the COVID-19 Protection Framework means for them – especially in Auckland, which is expected to move to the Framework first, in the coming weeks.

We are aiming to release interim guidance for TEOs and students in Auckland in the week of 15 November. This guidance will assist providers and students to plan and prepare for the transition from Alert Level 3 to the Red level.

At this stage, it is anticipated that the rest of the country will move to the Framework once the rest of the country's DHBs have reached 90 percent vaccination rates, which is likely to be early next year.

We will release our final detailed guidelines for the COVID-19 Protection Framework at the end of November.

Update on guidance on opening libraries at Alert Level 3, Step 2

We have updated our Tertiary [guidelines](#) to clarify that under Alert Level 3, Step 2, TEOs may operate their libraries in line with the rules for indoor public facilities (2m distancing, mandatory face coverings, contact tracing required). TEOs may choose to limit library access to student and staff only.

Early childhood education and schooling workforce mandate coverage

We have received several queries from the tertiary sector about the application of the early childhood education and schooling workforce mandate in the tertiary sector. Further work is being undertaken on vaccinations in the tertiary sector. In the table below, we set out in full how the vaccination requirements for the early childhood education and schooling workforce apply under the health order.



| Type of role | Are they required to be vaccinated under the Public Health Order? |
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| Teachers, teacher aides, principals, administration staff, caretakers, cooks | Yes. These staff are required to be vaccinated as they may have contact with children or students and/or will be present at a time when children and students are also present. |
| Learning support staff and other education agency staff (for example, Ministry of Education and ERO staff, NZQA exam invigilators/supervisors) | Yes. These staff are required to be vaccinated if they are visiting early learning services or schools to deliver a service that means they may have contact with children and students and/or will be present at a time when children and students are also present. |
| School board members | <p>The board member is required to be vaccinated if they may have contact with children or students or will be present at a time when children and students are also present.</p> <p>Otherwise, they are not required to be vaccinated.</p> <p>The board may want to consider a working arrangement that enables an unvaccinated board member to conduct business online and/or at a time that students will not be present (such as evening board meetings).</p> |
| Hostel workers (whether paid or unpaid) | Yes. These workers are required to be vaccinated as they may have contact with children or students and/or will be present at a time when children and students are also present. |
| Individuals living on hostel or school grounds who are not workers | <p>No. These individuals are not required to be vaccinated under the Order as they are not working or providing a service for the school/hostel.</p> <p>(Note: For those non-workers living in hostel accommodation, the owner of a hostel under the Education (Hostels) Regulations 2005 has a responsibility to ensure that boarders do not come into contact with another person on the premises who is suffering from a disease or condition capable of being passed on to boarders and that is likely to cause them serious harm if passed on. This requirement should already be reflected in the hostel policies.)</p> |
| Ministry-funded school transport drivers | Yes. Drivers of Ministry-funded school services are required to be vaccinated. This is because these people are carrying out work for an education service and they will have contact with children or students. |
| Bus drivers (general) | No. General transport workers such as public bus drivers (including dedicated school services funded by regional councils) or train conductors are not required to be vaccinated as they are not employed or engaged by a school or hostel. |



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| Employees/volunteers of a contracted service attending onsite during times children or students are also present, including planned events and activities that may take place before or after normal hours (for example, cleaners, tradespeople, nurses and health workers, staff engaged to deliver a programme or for a school event) | <p>Yes. Employees of a contracted service physically attending a school or hostel site when children or students are also present are required to be vaccinated.</p> <p>This is because these people are carrying out work at or for a school or hostel and they may have contact with children or students or will be present at a time when children and students are also present.</p> |
| Employees/volunteers of organisations who provide a service on an education site (for example, the Life Education caravans, dental care, PLD providers, external Ka Ora, Ka Ako programme providers, social workers in schools) | <p>Yes. Employees of a contracted service physically attending a school or hostel site when children or students are also present are required to be vaccinated.</p> <p>This is because these people are carrying out work at or for a school or hostel and they may have contact with children or students or will be present at a time when children and students are also present.</p> |
| Employees of a contracted service attending onsite outside of school hours or when children or students are not present (for example, weekend lawn-mowing service, tradespeople outside of school hours/hours of operation) | <p>No. These staff are not required to be vaccinated. The work will not be occurring at a time when children or students are expected to be present.</p> |
| After-school care services/out-of-hours music contracted by the school | <p>Yes. Employees of a contracted service physically attending a school site when children or students are also present are required to be vaccinated.</p> |
| After-school care services/out-of-hours music run by a private company on site | <p>No. These workers are not required to be vaccinated under this Health Order as they are not employed or engaged by a school. These after-school care providers may be covered by other requirements.</p> |
| Parents, caregivers or volunteers at an education outside the classroom (EOTC), learning experiences outside the classroom (LEOTC) programme or excursion | <p>Yes. These people are required to be vaccinated because these people are carrying out work (unpaid) at or for a school or hostel and they may have contact with children or students or will be present at a time when children and students are also present.</p> |
| Employees or volunteers for providers of EOTC, LEOTC services or excursions which are offsite (for example, library, school camp, museum staff) | <p>No. These workers (paid and unpaid) are not required to be vaccinated as they are not working “at” an education service or employed or engaged by the education service.</p> <p>However, schools and kura are encouraged to check on the vaccination status of offsite activity providers as part of their COVID-19 health and safety assessments.</p> |
| Parents/caregivers dropping off, picking up, or settling children at a school or kura | <p>No. As the Order only applies to workers and volunteers, not people who are visiting the school.</p> |
| Parents, caregivers and members of the community who are volunteers at the school, kura, or hostel | <p>Yes. These people onsite are required to be vaccinated as they may have contact with children or students or will be present at a time when children and students are also present.</p> <p>If the volunteer is working offsite and will not have any contact with children or students as part of their role, then they are not required to be vaccinated.</p> |



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| Parents or caregivers attending meetings or events on site (for example, parent-teacher interviews) | No. As the Order only applies to workers and volunteers, not people who are visiting the school or hostel. |
| Teachers who only work with students remotely, and never see their students in person | No. These staff are not required to be vaccinated if they will not have contact with children or students. |
| People who provide an educational service off site at a marae (or another significant cultural site) and are not directly employed/contracted by the school or hostel | No. People who work or volunteer at the marae but are not employed or engaged by the school or hostel are not required to be vaccinated as they are not working “at or for” the school or hostel. |
| Employees/contractors/volunteers of a school who provide an educational service off site (for example, alternative education providers, activity centres, teen parent units) | Yes. These people are required to be vaccinated if they may have contact with children or students or will be present at a time when children and students are also present. |
| Attendance advisors/kaiāwhina who work with young people to support them back into learning | Yes. These people are required to be vaccinated if they may have contact with children or students in the course of their work. |
| Employees/volunteers of an organisation that is not connected with the school but shares a building or campus (for example, churches, cafes) | Yes. These people are required to be vaccinated if they may have contact with children or students or will be present at a time when children and students are also present. |
| Student volunteers and students on placement | Yes. Those over the age of 12 are required to be vaccinated if they may have contact with children or students or will be present at a time when children and students are also present. |
| Union representatives | Yes. These people are required to be vaccinated if they may have contact with children or students or will be present at a time when children and students are also present. |
| General public using school facilities after hours (for example, playground, school pool) | No. The requirement to be vaccinated only applies to workers and volunteers. |
| Residential therapeutic and respite facilities that deliver onsite education for school aged children (for example, Oranga Tamariki youth justice and care and protection residences, remand homes and community-based homes) | Yes. These people carrying out work at or for an early learning service, school or hostel are required to be vaccinated as they may have contact with children or students or will be present at a time when children and students are also present. |
| Residential facility operated by Oranga Tamariki, which includes onsite education for school aged children provided by a registered school (for example, Kingslea, Central Regional Health School) | Yes. These people are required to be vaccinated if they may have contact with children or students or will be present at a time when children and students are also present. |
| Unvaccinated person responding to an emergency on site (for example, burst water pipe, windows blown out) | We encourage schools to proactively engage with their regular tradespeople about their vaccination status to mitigate any possibility of unvaccinated peoples coming on to the school site in the case of an emergency. |



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| Whānau who provide homestay accommodation for international or domestic students | Yes. The people the school contracts to provide the homestay accommodation service or boarding are required to be vaccinated. Otherwise, no. |
| Parents or caregivers coming into a playgroup that operates on a school site or site otherwise licensed for education and care (while other children are attending school or the early learning service) | Yes. They are required to be vaccinated if they are acting as a volunteer to support the child and they are present at a school site at a time when other children are present. |
| Parents or caregivers attending specialist early learning services with their children (for example, Champion Centre) | Yes. They are required to be vaccinated if they are acting as a volunteer to support the child and they are present at a school site at a time when other children are present. |
| Secondary-tertiary partnership providers | <p>Yes. These people are required to be vaccinated if the service is provided onsite as they may have contact with children or students or will be present at a time when children and students are also present.</p> <p>This requirement does not apply if the service is delivered offsite from a school or hostel.</p> |

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 have introduced 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/>

