



Tertiary Provider and International Bulletin

Monday 6 September 2021

COVID-19 Update

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COVID-19 Alert Level Changes

The government has announced that the rest of New Zealand beyond the Southern and Northern Auckland regional boundary will shift into Alert Level 2 from **11.59pm on Tuesday 7 September** with a review of settings on **Monday 13 September**. Auckland will continue to remain in Alert Level 4 until **Monday 13 September**.

Given the risk associated with the Delta variant, Level 2 will be different. This bulletin provides some general updates following the Prime Ministers' announcement today and initial guidance for TEOs preparing to move into Level 2.

General updates to Alert Level 2 (Delta) include:

- Face coverings are now mandatory for most public venues – e.g., libraries, or a mall however you can take your face masks off in hospitality venues. Staff in public venues must wear face coverings.
- A limit of 50 people for event and hospitality venues. If you are in an outdoor space, you may have a limit of 100 people. This limit for 50 people will not apply to tertiary education providers. More info on that below and in future bulletins.
- Surveillance testing will begin on 11.59pm on Thursday for twice-a-week testing for at least the next two weeks for essential workers who will be crossing the Alert Level boundaries.

Alert Level 2 – Preliminary guidance for Tertiary Education Organisations

We're in the process of updating the Alert Level 2 guidance in our [Guidelines for Tertiary Education Organisations](#) to align with Cabinet's decisions and the next COVID-19 Public Health Response (Alert Level Requirements) Order. We intend to make this updated Alert Level 2 guidance available tomorrow.

To assist TEOs outside of Auckland with their preparations for Alert Level 2, we can confirm:

- **Class sizes:** As noted above, the social gathering limits at Alert Level 2 do not apply to education-related gatherings. We are working with the Ministry of Health to develop guidance for TEOs on



public health measures for teaching and learning in a tertiary context at Alert Level 2 including appropriate limits on class sizes and distancing requirements.

- **Contact-tracing:** As at Alert Level 3, TEOs should have contact tracing systems in place for everyone on-site at Alert Level 2. TEOs should display the official NZ COVID Tracer QR code posters in a prominent place at or near main entrances, and ensure (to the greatest extent practicable) that each person entering the facility scans the QR code or provides details to enable contact tracing. In particular, TEOs are responsible for ensuring contact tracing information that identifies which students and staff (and any other visitors) have been in each 'controlled learning space' and 'other controlled environments' and at what time, is collected (whether via the COVID-19 Tracer App, or other means).
- **Face coverings:** Staff and students should bring face coverings or masks with them when attending on-site activities at Alert Level 2. Face coverings must be worn at libraries, student health services, pharmacies, banks and other retailers on campus. Face coverings are strongly recommended at all other times – including teaching and learning spaces, and research and laboratory spaces, where practicable – but are not mandatory.
- **Conducting research:** All research and related activities are allowed, provided public health control measures for TEOs are in place.
- **Noho marae:** Overnight noho marae will not be permitted at Alert Level 2, due to the increased risk of transmission of COVID-19 with cumulative exposure time.

Alert Level 4 – Key guidance for the Auckland region

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.

COVID-19 vaccination information for Māori and Pacific peoples

From September 4, Māori and Pacific peoples are not required to book at any Whānau Ora vaccination provider and may walk in to receive a COVID-19 vaccination. Further information on this campaign is available [here](#).

Stress counselling and support

This can be an unsettling time, and the uncertainty can have an impact on our mental wellbeing. It's okay to feel overwhelmed, upset or frustrated. Looking after your mental wellbeing is important, and can be supported through accessing a range of the following digital, 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, or someone you know, is in need of urgent mental health or addiction treatment, crisis mental health and addiction services are continuing to operate. Call your local hospital or district health board about how to get help. The numbers for crisis mental health teams are also on the Ministry of Health website. 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 are in touch with the Pacific mental health community in Auckland and are looking at options to support as needed

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: locations of interest 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.

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/>

