



## Tertiary Provider and International Bulletin

Wednesday 8 September 2021

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Mālō e lelei and happy [Tongan Language week](#),

### COVID-19 Alert Level Changes

The rest of New Zealand beyond the Southern and Northern Auckland regional boundary remains at Alert Level 2 with a review of settings on **Monday 13 September**. Auckland will continue in Alert Level 4 with a review of settings until **Monday 13 September**.

### Whakaiti | Alert Level 2 – Updated Guidelines for Tertiary Organisations

The new [COVID-19 Public Health Response \(Alert Level Requirements\) Order](#) came out late last night. We can confirm that the guidelines released last night align with the Health Order.

In response to queries from providers, we have made some minor clarifications in our Alert Level 2 guidelines:

- **Public health measures for staff:** Staff in non-public facing roles should maintain a 1-metre distance from each other. Staff in public-facing roles (e.g. student services and other roles not in controlled learning spaces) should maintain a 2-metre distance from students and visitors, and face coverings are strongly recommended. TEOs may implement limits on the number of people in some spaces to allow everyone to safely physically distance. Staff working in hostels and halls of residence are not required to wear face coverings, but may wish to do so in shared and communal areas.
- **Guidance for shared premises:** Businesses and services e.g. cafes on shared premises, e.g. learning hubs, should operate in accordance with the public health control measures that apply to that type of business or service. These may include gathering limits, physical distancing, contact tracing, and face covering requirements.



We have also made a change to our guidelines regarding permitted cross-boundary travel, which is outlined below. This is also updated on our website [here](#).

### **Tertiary education workers eligible for priority vaccination**

The Ministry of Health has confirmed that any person employed by and working on site at a tertiary education entity, including tertiary accommodation services staff, is now eligible for priority vaccination, independent of the COVID-19 Alert level.

Tertiary workers should book their appointments through [BookMyVaccine.nz](#) in the first instance. There are a wide range of places staff can be vaccinated around New Zealand, including drive-through centres, marae-based centres, general practices, community pharmacies and Pacific providers.

If, for some reason tertiary workers cannot find an appointment within two weeks, they are advised to call the COVID Vaccination Healthline on 0800 28 29 26 and they will assist arranging a suitable time. Tertiary workers will need to tell the call taker they are an essential education worker so their vaccination can be prioritised. All calls are free, and the team are available from 8am to 8pm, seven days a week. Interpreters are available if needed.

Below are FAQs that might help with any queries you receive about this.

*If I am already booked in for a vaccination, should I cancel it and rebook as an essential worker?*

It depends on how far in advance your vaccination is scheduled for. If your appointment is within the next two weeks, we suggest you keep it. If it is more than two weeks away however, you might want to rebook as an essential education worker. Just call the COVID Vaccination Healthline on 0800 28 29 26 and talk to them before making any changes to existing bookings. As of 1 September 2021, vaccinations are open to everyone over the age of 12, so if you are already booked for a vaccination that appointment might occur sooner.

*Where can I get more information about the vaccine?*

Getting accurate information about the COVID-19 vaccine and the rollout programme is important. Visit the [health.govt.nz](#) and [covid19.govt.nz](#) for the latest information. Trusted information in te reo Māori and English can be found at [karawhiua.nz](#).

### **Topping up the Hardship Fund for Learners**

Today, the government announced a \$20 million boost to the Hardship Fund for Learners (HAFL), to be paid out to providers. The fund supports domestic learners:

- facing hardship as a result of COVID-19, and
- can be used for technology-related costs where COVID-19 restrictions remove the options for face-to-face study.

Minister Hipkins has asked TEC to work with providers and students' groups to ensure students understand how to access the fund.

HAFL can be used to cover essential living costs such as food, internet, utilities, rent or other unexpected expenses. It can also be used to support access to technology-enabled tertiary education and training, where learning has been disrupted due to COVID-19.

The Government also made changes to ensure MSD can continue paying student living support for domestic learners on extended study breaks.

If you are a learner and need support, please talk to your provider.



If you are a tertiary provider, the TEC will communicate any new allocations to you. Please contact TEC if you have any questions relating to the Hardship Fund.

You can read more in the links below

[Boosting support for tertiary students affected by COVID-19 | Beehive.govt.nz](#)

[Hardship Fund for Learners 2021 | TEC.govt.nz](#)

[COVID-19 information for students | Studylink.govt.nz](#)

### **Travel: permissions, key principles and exemption requests**

The new Health Order also had a new addition to permit travel in some circumstances, in order to attend your usual education entity or training facility for learning purposes. This means for example, that someone in Northland, who normally attends an education entity in Waikato, can travel through Auckland (without stopping) to get to Waikato.

Across boundary travel remains very restricted for anyone within the Auckland region.

#### *Permission to travel across an Alert Level boundary*

There are a range of permissions in the Health Order to support some individuals to travel across an alert level boundary, in specific circumstances including:

- To travel to a principal home or place of residence – but **only** if travelling from Alert Level 2, into Alert level 4
- **Necessary** travel through Auckland region from an Alert Level 2 area, to an Alert Level 2 (eg, Tai Tokerau to Waikato). This permission includes going to or returning from **work** and **attending your regular training and education facility** (and attending a funeral, tangihanga, wedding or civil union service).

If travelling for these purposes, you do not need to apply for an exemption to travel. But you must carry evidence of the purpose for your travel, and the location of your destination (eg, household bills, and letters or evidence of enrolment at an education entity). You will also need to have a form of photo ID.

[Go to the COVID19.govt.nz website](#) for further information on what travel is permitted and what you need to do if permitted to travel. Please note that this information will be getting updated following the Health Order coming into play last night.

#### *Key principles for travel*

- Do it safely
- Don't travel if you are unwell
- Don't travel (or leave your home/place of residence) if you are self-isolating
- You should be confident that all public health measures will be met at the location you are travelling to
- Before you travel, make sure you know what is and isn't allowed, at any alert level
- Follow the rules when using public transport, domestic flights and taxi and ride-share services (eg, wear a face covering and follow physical distancing requirements)

#### *Exemption to travel*

If your travel is not permitted within the Health Order, then you will need to apply for an exemption. Exemptions will only be granted in exceptional circumstances. [Go to the COVID19.govt.nz website for further information.](#)



## **Whakakore | Alert Level 4 –Guidance reminder 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.

### **Contact tracing systems at TEO facilities**

TEOs should now have contact tracing systems in place for all staff and students onsite. TEOs should display the official NZ COVID Tracer QR code posters in a prominent place at or near main entrances. It is important to ensure (to the greatest extent practicable) that each person entering the facility scans the QR code or provides details to enable contact tracing.

### **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/>

