



Tertiary Provider and International Bulletin

Tuesday 9 November 2021

COVID-19 Update

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COVID-19 Alert Levels

Auckland Alert Level setting

On Monday 8 November, the Prime Minister confirmed the decision for Auckland to shift down a step to Alert Level 3, Step 2, from 11.59pm tonight. These settings will be reviewed on Monday 15 November.

The Prime Minister also announced that there is a likelihood that Auckland will move to the COVID-19 Protection Framework following Cabinet's check in on 29 November. However, she stressed that all DHBs in the Auckland region need to hit the 90% double dose vaccination target to ensure high levels of protection from COVID-19.

Waikato areas Alert Level setting

Areas of the Waikato region are currently at Alert Level 3, Step 2 (Raglan, Te Kauwhata, Huntly, Ngāruawāhia, Hamilton Waitomo District, including Te Kuiti, Waipa District, Ōtorohanga District, Hamilton City and some surrounding areas) These settings will be reviewed on Monday 15 November.

Northland area Alert Level setting

The northern parts of Northland currently at Alert Level 3 will move to Alert Level 2 at 11.59pm on Thursday 11 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 can now confirm that, at Alert Level 3, Step 2, bubble sizes can increase and physical distancing requirements in exam settings may decrease as follows:

- Tertiary staff/student bubble sizes can increase from 10 to 25 per class bubble, where remote delivery is not possible. Public health measures such as face coverings, physical distancing of 1m, and staying home if unwell should be followed.
- TEOs may hold exams within bubbles of 25 with a physical distancing requirement of 1m, if face coverings are worn.



As we confirmed last week:

- 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 staff and students only.

As a reminder, contact tracing information that identifies which student/staff bubbles have met, and where and when they have met should be collected. Where necessary, a staff member may leave a bubble and join a new staff/student bubble (for example, if a course has concluded and another one is to begin). Staff/student bubbles should not extend to gatherings in settings outside of TEO facilities and do not apply to, for example, study groups in private flats.

Our detailed guidelines have been updated to reflect these changes.

Vaccination requirements for the tertiary sector and future guidance

We can confirm that the Government is not going to mandate vaccinations for attending on-site tertiary education beyond the requirements already announced for the Red level of the COVID-19 Protection Framework. The Red level of the COVID-19 Protection Framework requires students and staff attending onsite delivery to be vaccinated, with capacity based on 1 metre distancing.

Outside of the Red level (and other vaccination requirements – for example, on students intending to undertake placements in healthcare and teacher education), it is up to TEOs whether and how to impose additional vaccination requirements for students, considering all relevant factors. We note the complex environment TEOs need to make these decisions in, including TEOs' human rights obligations, health and safety requirements, expectations for learner wellbeing and safety systems, contractual relationships with students, student enrolment entitlements, and equity considerations.

We are developing guidance for TEOs operating under the COVID-19 Protection framework and MBIE's risk assessment framework. You can expect this guidance to be published in the week of 22 November.

Vaccination requirements for certain workforces and non-citizens entering New Zealand

There are separate lists for approved vaccinations for people who are non-citizens entering New Zealand (this will apply to international students) and approved vaccinations for requirements that the Government has put in place for certain workforces. TEOs will need to be aware of this as they enrol international students into certain programmes with workforce vaccination requirements (such as teaching or health-related professions). The list of approved vaccinations to enter the country as a non-citizen can be found [here](#), and the approved list for vaccination requirements for certain workforces can be found [here](#).

Email address for all tertiary and international COVID-19 related queries

A central mailbox has been set-up for all queries to the Ministry of Education that are 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. All future bulletins will be sent from this email address 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/>

