



Tertiary Provider and International Bulletin Wednesday 27 October 2021

COVID-19 Update

- COVID-19 Alert Levels
- Announcement on engagement on increasing tertiary bubble sizes in Alert Level 3
- Employment vaccination announcement
- Updated guidance on bubbles at Alert Level 3
- Updated guidance on student travel
- Border class exception for 1,000 international tertiary students
- Be a doer! Karawhiua
- Two shots for summer
- Vaccination resources
- Email address for all tertiary and international COVID-19 related queries

COVID-19 Alert Levels

Auckland Alert Level setting

Auckland continues to be at Alert Level 3, Step 1. This will be reviewed by Cabinet on Monday 1 November. More information on [Alert Level 3](#) is available on the Unite Against COVID-19 website.

Waikato areas Alert Level setting

Parts of the Waikato (Raglan, Te Kauwhata, Huntly, Ngāruawāhia, Hamilton Waitomo District, including Te Kuiti, Waipa District, Ōtorohanga District, Hamilton City and some surrounding areas) that are at Alert Level 3 will remain at that level until Monday, 1 November, to be reviewed on that day alongside the review of the Auckland settings. From 11.59 tonight, Alert Level 3 settings in those parts of the Waikato will be easing to mirror the settings in Auckland. These changes do not have implications for our Alert Level 3 guidance.

The boundary between Auckland and Waikato remains. For general Alert Level advice for those in an area of the Waikato at Alert Level 3, please see the Unite Against COVID-19 website [here](#).

The rest of New Zealand outside of the affected Waikato areas and Auckland region is currently at Alert Level 2.

Announcement on engagement on increasing tertiary bubble sizes in Alert Level 3

As indicated by the Minister of Education this afternoon, the Government is considering expanding education gathering limits in the tertiary sector. We will be undertaking targeted engagement with the sector on increasing the maximum number of people in a staff/student bubble for on-site delivery (where remote delivery is not possible) from 10 to 20. This proposed change would allow Private Training Establishments in particular to reconnect with their students face to face, and supports TEOs to operate end of year assessments for their students. If this change is approved, it is likely to take effect from 15 November.



Employment vaccination announcement

Following Cabinet on Tuesday, the Government announced an overview of vaccine mandate rules for employers. This includes:

- A new Government mandate to require vaccination for all workers at businesses where customers need to show COVID 19 Vaccination Certificates, such as hospitality and close contact businesses, and
- For those employers not mandated to require vaccination, a law change to introduce a clearer and simplified risk assessment process to follow when deciding whether they can require vaccinations for staff.

We are currently working through the implications of this and recent high-level policy announcements for tertiary education. We will work with sector peak bodies to provide further guidance to support providers regarding vaccination of staff. Further information on the announcement can be accessed [here](#).

Updated guidance on bubbles at AL 3

On-campus bubble re-configuration for staff

Under Alert Level 3 guidance, classes, workshops, etc. that cannot be delivered online have been allowed to operate on-site in small bubble groups of up to 10 staff/students. Staff members should continue only having one bubble at one time. However, we have now updated the guidance so that 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). There is no required stand down time period for staff between leaving a bubble and joining another. Contact tracing information that identifies which student/staff bubbles have met, and where and when they have met should continue to be collected.

We are updating our detailed guidance for tertiary education providers to reflect these changes. Our guidance can be found on our [website](#).

Updated guidance on student travel

We are aware that students are looking for guidance about crossing alert levels to return home on a permanent or long-term basis at the end of the academic year. We have updated our guidance to reflect that students can relocate across alert levels or regional boundaries for this purpose, and would apply if a student needed to go home for the summer holidays as their lease is ending or hall of residence is closing.

- Students are permitted to **relocate to their home or place of residence on a permanent or long-term basis** as a result of attending tertiary education or completing a course of study at a tertiary education entity. All students must carry evidence of their purpose of travel and destination (for example, proof of accommodation arrangements).
- When travelling from Auckland, students must also carry:
 - evidence of a negative COVID-19 test result, or
 - a medical certificate confirming they do not have COVID-19 symptoms and, for a particular physical or other need, are unable to have a COVID-19 test.
- Students must get tested or be examined within 72 hours prior to crossing the Alert Level boundary.
- The Unite Against COVID-19 website outlines the evidence requirements for this travel [here](#).

Border class exception for 1,000 international tertiary students

A further border class exception for 1,000 international tertiary students has been approved by the Government for the following international students:

- 400 pilot trainees
- 300 students at degree level and above, and
- 300 students at the sub-degree level.

We expect students to start arriving from mid-2022.

More details about this border class exception are available [here](#).



Be a doer! Karawhiua

We can be proud of what we've done to protect each other from COVID-19. Let's not waste our hard mahi. You and your whānau can find trusted information on the Karawhiua website so you can make an informed choice about the COVID-19 vaccine.

[Karawhiua — Karawhiua - Protect Communities from COVID-19](#)

Two shots for summer

Vaccination is our pass to unlock summer. Find where's close to get your dose on the Unite against COVID-19 — you can just walk in or drive through. Get 1 now. Get another in 3 weeks.

[2 shots for summer | Unite against COVID-19 \(covid19.govt.nz\)](#)

Vaccination resources

You can access trusted information about vaccines, communications resources and conversation guides on the Unite against COVID-19 website. If you have a specific request, please email us

COVID19.Tertiary@education.govt.nz

[COVID-19 vaccines | Unite against COVID-19 \(covid19.govt.nz\)](#)

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 are introducing this email address to ensure there is a central point of contact that we can monitor. 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](#)

Information for schools, services and tertiary providers, as well as parents and whānau can be found on the Ministry of Education website [COVID-19 – Education in New Zealand](#)

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/>

