



Tertiary Provider and International Bulletin

Tuesday 17 August 2021

COVID-19 Update

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COVID-19 Update – Auckland community case and change to Alert Level 4

You will be aware a confirmed case of COVID-19 has been identified in the community in Auckland. As a result, and because of the much greater risk associated with the Delta variant, all of New Zealand is moving to Alert Level 4 for 3 days. Face coverings are strongly recommended when outside or in public places i.e. the supermarket. Auckland and Coromandel will likely remain at Level 4 for 7 days. This will take effect from 11:59 pm, tonight and will be under constant review.

There is a 48-hour window for travel, to allow people to return home. We encourage them to do so only if they can do so safely, with a minimum of personal contact. After this time, travel will be heavily restricted.

While this is the news none of us wanted, it is a response that had been anticipated in recent weeks. This extremely short and sharp shift in alert levels will support health authorities to prevent widespread infection in the community.

Acting with extreme caution has served us well for New Zealand's COVID-19 response, and we all know what we can do to help keep our communities as safe as possible. The below information is a reminder of what is required.

You will be familiar with the alert level guidance for tertiary education organisations; however, for quick reference on how to operate under different Alert Levels, click [here](#).

The number one priority remains the welfare of students and staff and ensuring that they remain safe and well during this time. Providers are reminded of their [international](#) and [domestic pastoral code](#) obligations (see also the interim code guidance [here](#)). The Ministry of Health website contains a useful range of mental health and wellbeing resources your staff might need for themselves or to assist students, they can be found [here](#).



Alert Level 4 - Government advice

The guiding principles at **Alert Level 4** for tertiary organisations are:

- All tertiary education facilities must be closed from tomorrow, 18 August with the exception of necessary student accommodation, and those deemed as 'Essential services.'
- Providers must continue to deliver education remotely where possible. This includes examinations, lectures, assessments, workshops, etc where these should be remotely where possible.
- Where access to a tertiary site has been approved for an Essential Service, use the minimum number of people to complete the task, after consideration of workplace safety and workload.
- Gathering of people at tertiary facilities is not allowed.

Travel and accommodation advice for students

- Tertiary accommodation is deemed an 'Essential service' and is to remain open throughout the shift to Alert level 4.
- Students are encouraged to return home at their discretion if they can do so safely and within Alert Level settings in the first 48 hours. Some students who cannot return home will need to stay in student accommodation.
- Staff that work in student accommodation will live on site (if possible). Staff and students will be within a bubble in the accommodation (with contact contained within smaller bubbles in that accommodation). Students and staff living in tertiary accommodation should observe strict physical distancing, infection prevention measures, and 'bubbles' should be maintained at all times. For example, close contact should be limited to people of the same 'bubble' (which may be a single floor in a halls of residence); common social and recreation areas should be closed (except those shared by a single 'bubble'); and there should be split shift access to common areas for staff.
- Providers must support the safety and wellbeing of students and allow them to self-isolate, as required.

Advice for people who live in, or visited Auckland

If you live in Auckland or recently visited Auckland, you should continue to check the Ministry of Health's locations of interest page to find out if you might have been exposed to COVID-19, by being in the same place, at the same time as the positive case. If you were potentially exposed, follow the guidance for the particular location of interest, which is on the same page:

[COVID-19: Contact tracing locations of interest | Ministry of Health NZ](#)

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.

COVID-19 vaccination information

- Detailed advice on COVID-19 vaccination is available from the Ministry of Health, which can be accessed [here](#).
- The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment has advice on COVID-19 vaccination and employment [here](#).



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>

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/>

