



## Bulletin – Tertiary Students

7<sup>th</sup> May, 2020

### COVID-19 Update

Today, the Government has outlined what Alert Level 2 will look like. A decision about whether New Zealand will move to Alert Level 2 will be made by Cabinet on Monday 11 May. The Prime Minister has said that the move to Alert Level 2 would occur with 48 hours' notice. [Information about the four level alert system is here.](#)

#### **What this means for you**

##### Movement and travel

*Students can move under Alert Level 2.* You can return to your place of study but must do it in a safe way, as per the [Ministry of Transport guidelines](#). No documentation (e.g. proof of residence) is required for domestic travel under Alert Level 2. Do not book anything until an announcement is made and check with your provider about a suitable date to return.

##### Student accommodation

*Students can return to residential accommodation under Alert Level 2.* Your hostel, hall of residence or other accommodation will be open, but please check with your accommodation provider regarding a suitable date to return. They need to make sure the necessary public health control measures are in place and this may take a few days. Your provider will be required to collect information from all residents, staff, and visitors who go into a residential facilities. This is important to reduce the risk of someone getting infected in the first place and two, to ensure we can identify and contact anyone who becomes infected.

*Social events* with external visitors are not allowed within residential accommodation. Hostels, halls and other residential accommodation may have social events involving people who are resident in that accommodation, but need to exercise restraint over the size and scale of these. Students in residential accommodation may have a small number of family or close friends as visitors within accommodation, but TEOs need to ensure this is managed so as not to result in large gatherings taking place.



## Returning to campus

Under Alert level 2, all on-site activities at tertiary education facilities can resume, such as classes, lectures, labs, workshops, tutorials, noho, and meetings, though your provider will need to meet a range of public health control measures for tertiary organisation, including contact tracing (some of which are outlined below).

However, students who are at greater risk of getting a severe illness from COVID-19 due to an underlying medical condition, those who are pregnant, and those who are over 70, are encouraged to continue to learn and teach remotely.

Your provider will maintain the ability to deliver comprehensive distance learning, for those students who need it

The following public health control measures will apply when your on-site at your education campus:

- You are asked to remain at home if you are sick, have any COVID-19 symptoms, are in isolation, or are awaiting COVID-19 test results.
- Contact tracing information will be collected by your provider so they can identify which students (and any other visitors) have been in each 'controlled learning space' and at what time. A 'controlled learning space' may be a lecture theatre, a lab, a classroom, etc. while 'other controlled environments' may be a block of multiple classrooms or an outdoor site with perimeter control.
- There is no "bubble" concept at Alert Level 2, however you should continue to keep two metre physical distancing from those you do not know, with one metre physical distancing encouraged in other environments, including where contact tracing is not in place.
- Your education provider will also need to implement a range of other control measures, such as regular cleaning and sterilisation of facilities.

## Student learning

*Students can think about returning to classes.* Your classes, lectures, labs, workshops, tutorials, noho, and meetings will resume, though this may be phased over several days as TEOs work to put in place the required public health control measures. Please check with your organisation/tutor about when your face to face learning will start again. At any time, you still need to be able to return to fully online learning, if required.

*Students can get out and about.* Gyms, pharmacies, cafes, etc. will be operating but public health control measures will apply. You should continue to keep two metre physical distancing from people you do not know, with one metre physical distancing encouraged in other environments, including where contact tracing is not in place.

## Student support

The [Student support package will continue](#) under Alert Level 2.

Claims can now be made via your MyStudyLink account. You should receive the payment into your nominated bank account within 24 - 72 hours of the claim being received.

Answers to questions about Student Allowance and Living Cost payments can be found on StudyLink's website <https://www.studylink.govt.nz/>.

## Student hardship

- If you need extra help during this time you can find information about emergency assistance on the StudyLink website [here](#)
- If you are an international student, you can access the following essential services to help with basic needs [here](#). You can also speak to your provider and/ or your embassy as they may be able to offer some support too.

## Stress counselling and support

Emergencies are usually unexpected, sudden and overwhelming. It's natural to feel emotionally and physically drained.

You're not alone in this and you don't need to cope on your own. Talk to your friends and family members to help you cope. You can get more help and also information from:

- your education provider
- your GP or local community health centre
- Youthline [0800 376 633](tel:0800376633) <sup>(Link 19)</sup> [www.youthline.co.nz](http://www.youthline.co.nz) <sup>(Link 20)</sup>
- [Need To Talk](#) <sup>(Link 22)</sup> by calling or texting [1737](tel:1737) <sup>(Link 23)</sup>
- In an emergency always call [111](tel:111) <sup>(Link 24)</sup>.

## **Things change quickly so stay up to date by following the links below:**

For health advice, refer to the Ministry of Health's website

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>

For official Government information about COVID-19 (novel coronavirus), including health advice and travel restrictions visit the All-of-Government website <https://www.govt.nz/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/>

For more advice for students, visit the Ministry of Education website

<http://www.education.govt.nz/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-3/>