



Bulletin – Tertiary Provider Bulletin

20th April, 2020

COVID-19 URGENT UPDATE

This bulletin provides updates on:

- Prime Minister's announcement on moving out of Alert Level 4
- What this means for staff and students
- Offshore online delivery

Moving to Alert Level 3

This afternoon the government has announced that New Zealand will move out of Alert Level 4, as at 11.59pm on Monday 27th April. We will move into Alert Level 3 on Tuesday 28th April.

[Information about the four level alert system is here.](#)

We have been consulting across the sector in preparation for moving out of Alert Level 4, and we shared some guidance with you recently, to assist you in your planning. In summary, the guiding principles at Alert Level 3 are:

- All teaching and other activities should be done remotely wherever possible.
- Where it is not possible to deliver teaching online, some facilities may remain open (e.g. for research, post-graduate teaching, lab/workshops, or noho-based delivery).
- Any class, workshops, etc., that open, must be limited to 10 people or less. Each group is considered a 'bubble' and should not interact with any other student/staff bubbles of 10.
- Distance learning provision will be available for others students.
- Physical distancing requirements must be met in all situations.
- Student accommodation should remain open and in a position to provide appropriate support to allow students to self-isolate, as required.
- Large classes or gatherings (of more than 10 people) are not allowed.
- Workplace-based learning is subject to the policies and practices being applied to that type of workplace.
- Vulnerable people (or those caring for/living with vulnerable people) should not carry out any on-site work or learning
- Any educational facilities affected by COVID-19 will be closed for a specific period of time.



For answers to some potential questions, [click here](#).

The number one priority still remains the welfare of staff and students, and ensuring that they remain safe and well during this time.

What this means for your staff

- **Stay home.** All teaching, meetings, and other usual on-site activities should continue be done remotely, wherever possible.
- **If teaching online is not possible**, you can run limited classes for 10 people or less to resolve that issue. Strict physical distancing and 'bubbles' should be maintained at all times.
- **Preparation.** Staff can go on site to prepare for practical workshops/classes, following the physical distancing guidelines.
- **Physical distancing** guidelines. 2m outside home, or 1m in controlled environments (eg TEO's).
- **Travel. Essential only** i.e. for delivery of teaching/learning, research or for effective management and governance functions that cannot be done remotely, and then only within your local region.
- **Support.** Any support your staff might need for themselves or to assist students, they can visit [mental-health-and-wellbeing-resources](#)

What this means for your students

- **Stay home.** Where students can access their courses online, they will continue to do so. For those students where delivery online is not possible some facilities may open (e.g. for research, post-graduate teaching, lab/workshops, or noho-based delivery).
- Any class, workshop, laboratory etc., that opens, must be limited to 10 people or less. Each such group is considered a 'bubble' and should not interact with any other student/staff bubbles of 10¹.
- Students in hostels, halls of residence or self-contained flats will remain open and Ministry of Health guidelines on hygiene and social distancing will remain. If students went home to join the family "bubble", they must stay home. They cannot return to your student accommodation.
- **Support.** The [Student support package will continue](#) under Alert Level 3. Claims can now be made via their MyStudyLink account. They should receive the payment into their 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/>.

¹ For example, a students can attend a class or lab or workshop with a group of other students (of up to 10 students and staff), but not then move on to multiple other classes with different groups.

- Some students will become increasingly anxious as restrictions remain in place and their mental wellbeing is likely to be impacted during this time. Sharing clear and regular information might help: about changes to their courses and assessments, how they can ask you questions about their own circumstances, and about where they can find help for [urgent or unexpected costs](#).
- As well as resources on the [COVID19 website](#), there is lots of useful information online at the [Mental Health Foundation](#) and [NauMaI](#) to guide students, where needed.
- Student hardship will increase and there are a number of ways students can access support. Visit [what's available to support students](#) so you can guide students, where needed.

Offshore online delivery

TEOs have signalled interest in offshore online delivery to international students who are unable to enter New Zealand due to COVID-19 restrictions. NZQA will consider approval to deliver offshore online through two pathways and for two cohorts of international students.

1. TEOs can seek temporary approval of offshore online delivery until 30 June 2020 where they have currently enrolled international students with a valid visa, who are unable to start/continue/complete their study because they are offshore and unable to enter the country.
2. The second pathway enables approval of offshore online delivery under the Offshore Delivery Rules and is for new offshore international students, and to continue offshore online delivery to current international students beyond 30 June 2020.

More information about offshore online delivery can be found [on the NZQA website](#).

Things change quickly so stay up to date:

For answers to questions about Student Allowance and Living Cost payments refer to StudyLink's website <https://www.studylink.govt.nz/>.

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/>