



## Tertiary Provider and International Bulletin

Monday, 15 February 2021

### COVID-19 Update – Alert Level change

Yesterday, the government announced that from 11:59pm, Sunday 14 February 2021 the Auckland Region will be at Alert Level 3 and the remainder of New Zealand will be at Alert Level 2, for 72 hours. This is to ensure that we prevent the virus from spreading in our community.

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 staff and students, and ensuring that they remain safe and well during this time. 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](#).

The guiding principles for all alert levels for tertiary education organisations can be found [here](#). As per government advice the following is worth noting:

- Travel in and out of Auckland is restricted to essential travel only. If you are an Aucklander you can travel to Auckland to return home.
- While it is not mandatory to wear a face mask or face covering while on campus, wearing them is advised where it is not possible to practice social distancing or to carry out contact tracing. This includes, for example, in crowded spaces on TEO campuses, or teaching and learning situations where close physical contact cannot be avoided.

The guiding principles at **Alert Level 3** for tertiary education organisations in the **Auckland region** 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 20 people or less. Each group is considered a ‘bubble’ and should not interact with any other student/staff bubbles of 20.
- Distance learning provision will be available for other students.
- Social distancing and contact tracing requirements must be met in all situations.



- Wearing face masks (or other face coverings) is mandatory on public transport and advised if out and about, for example visiting the supermarket.
- 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 20 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 onsite work or learning.
- Any educational facilities affected by COVID-19 will be closed for a specific period of time.

#### *What this means for your staff*

- Stay home. All teaching, meetings, and other usual on-site activities should continue to be done remotely, wherever possible.
- If teaching online is not possible, you can run limited classes for 20 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, for example onsite at 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.

#### *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, postgraduate teaching, lab/workshops, or noho-based delivery).
- Hostels, halls of residence or self-contained flats will remain open and Ministry of Health guidelines on hygiene and social distancing will remain.
- Students are encouraged to wear masks or face coverings when out and about.
- Student services, such as counselling and health services should continue to operate, with consultations delivered online or over the phone, where possible. Other supports available are;
  - GP or local community health centre
  - Youthline 0800 376 633 [www.youthline.co.nz](http://www.youthline.co.nz)
  - Need To Talk by calling or texting 1737
  - In an emergency always call 111
- Answers to questions about Student Allowance and Living Cost payments can be found on StudyLink's website <https://www.studylink.govt.nz/>.
- Students can attend a class or lab or workshop with a group of other students (of up to 20 students and staff), but not then move on to multiple other classes with different groups.
- Any class, workshop, laboratory etc., that opens, must be limited to 20 people or less. Each such group is considered a 'bubble' and should not interact with any other student/staff bubbles of 20.



**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>

For additional advice for tertiary providers/whare wānanga visit the Ministry of Education website <http://www.education.govt.nz/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-3/>

