



Tertiary Provider and International Bulletin

Monday 23 August 2021

COVID-19 Update

- COVID-19 Update
- COVID-19 communications resources
- Tertiary provider site access
- Mandatory requirement for contact tracing and QR codes
- Advice for COVID-19 cases in tertiary education providers or accommodation
- Emergency services at all Alert Levels
- COVID-19 vaccination information
- Hardship Fund for Learners
- Stress counselling and support
- Locations of interest

COVID-19 Update

Due to increasing numbers of community cases of COVID-19 in the Auckland region and several cases in Wellington, as well as the large geographical spread of people isolating due to potential exposure to the virus, the government has confirmed that **New Zealand will remain at Alert Level 4 until Friday 27 August 11.59pm. Further decisions will be made and announced this Friday afternoon. Auckland will remain at Alert Level 4 until 31st August with a further review on Monday 30th August.**

COVID-19 communications resources

We have a [range of COVID-19 resources](#) that are available for you to use and share with your networks to help communicate the rules and guidance around Alert Level 4. If you require any further support regarding access to these resources, please contact Alexandra.grace@education.govt.nz

Tertiary provider site access

Thank you for your patience as we work to update the [Guidelines for Tertiary Education Organisations](#) on how to operate under different Alert Levels with the new site access rules and exemptions.

In the meantime, our detailed guidance on the current rules regarding site access for tertiary providers is set out below. This pulls together all of the site-access guidance we have provided in our previous recent Bulletins, and reflects the current health order, [COVID-19 Public Health Response \(Alert Level Requirements\) Order \(No 9\) 2021](#) and exemptions:

- All tertiary educational facilities must be closed, with the exception of necessary student accommodation, and those deemed 'essential' services.



- Site access is permitted for tertiary providers for exceptional circumstances only (outlined below), and several public health measures are required. **Where site access is permitted, a minimum number of staff should be onsite for a minimum amount of time. Infection prevention measures and contact tracing systems must be in place, and physical distancing requirements must be maintained at all times. If there is more than one staff member on site, staff must wear a face covering.**
- Very limited site access is permitted for tertiary staff for the following purposes only (and providers do not need to apply for permission to access sites in these circumstances):
 - **Caring for animals.**
 - **Maintenance and management of facilities and ICT infrastructure** if the task is essential to operations, and there is no way to complete the task remotely. Examples include maintaining IT servers and IT equipment critical to delivering distance education, securing the site, removing fire hazards, or essential contractors in the event of damage at a tertiary organisation.
 - **Limited scientific services** are designated as essential (e.g., significant research facilities, including animal facilities, clinical trials, and infrastructure that requires constant attention (for example, samples, collections, and storage facilities), that are important to New Zealand). Tertiary providers may only continue research if it is allowed under Schedule 2 of the current health order.
 - **Collating and arranging for the delivery of educational resources to students** who are otherwise unable to access resources remotely and undertaking contactless deliveries to those students is allowed. In addition to the public health measures above, staff undertaking deliveries must wear a face covering and keep physically distanced from others (2-metres). There must be no physical contact between staff and the person receiving the educational resources. Students are not permitted to pick up educational resources from TEOs.
 - Staff may **collect items which are essential to allow themselves to work remotely from their homes.**

Any site access outside of the above purposes will require an exemption from the Director-General of Health. The threshold for access outside of the approved purposes above is extremely high. TEOs that consider they need to access sites for reasons other than those provided above should contact the TEC to discuss this. Please email customerservice@tec.govt.nz, with the subject heading “site access enquiry”, or get in touch with your Relationship Manager.

Mandatory requirement for contact tracing and QR codes

Record-keeping will become a requirement for busy places and events across all Alert Levels. Those responsible for relevant businesses, facilities and events will need to ensure that visitors over the age of 12 scan the QR code for their place or gathering with the COVID-19 Tracer App, or provide details in a contact tracing record.

TEOs should already have systems and processes in place to ensure, to the greatest extent possible, that each person entering their facilities makes a record of their visit, consistent with the [Guidelines for Tertiary Education Organisations](#). The new mandatory record-keeping requirement is intended to apply to businesses and services that may not currently have adequate record keeping. Examples include cafes, restaurants, exercise facilities, bars, libraries and more, including those that may operate on TEO campuses. A full list of places where record keeping is mandatory is available [here](#).

Mandatory record keeping will come into effect 7 days after an Alert Level change. This will give relevant businesses and locations adequate time to ensure they have systems and processes in place to ensure customers/visitors can record their visit. Further guidance will be released soon to support businesses and help them comply with the new requirements shortly.



Information on how to display your QR code is available on the [unite against COVID-19 website](#).

Advice for COVID-19 cases in tertiary education providers or accommodation

For students: Please follow COVID-19 regulations and advice from health officials and keep in regular contact with the providers. Any student (or tertiary staff member) who feels unwell or exhibits symptoms of COVID-19 should immediately contact their TEO and contact [Healthline](#).

Students who left residential accommodation before lockdown or during the 48-hour grace period, to join a “bubble” with friends, family or whānau, are not permitted to return to their student accommodation during Alert Level 4.

For providers: If a COVID-19 case is linked with a tertiary education or accommodation facility, the provider will be contacted by the Medical Officer or Health or their local public health authority. If a tertiary provider becomes aware of a case associated with their education or accommodation facility and they haven't received notification from health authorities, they should immediately contact [Sandra Ramsey](#) or [Gillian Dudgeon](#) at the TEC at or the local [public health unit](#).

Tertiary providers must follow Ministry of Health advice for organisations that are identified as a location of interest. Guidance is available on the [Ministry of Health website](#). The number one priority continues to be the welfare of students and staff and ensuring they remain safe and well. We encourage providers to continue to familiarise themselves with their [international](#) and [domestic pastoral code](#) obligations (see also the interim code guidance [here](#)).

As outlined within the [interim code for domestic tertiary students](#), providers must ensure that:

- they have appropriate welfare checks, including regular checks on residents identified as being at risk
- there is a managerial oversight of accommodation staff at all times (24 hours a day, 7 days a week) so that issues can be escalated when they occur
- there is a clear defined processes within the student accommodation for referring and responding to instances of resident behaviours that are a risk to self or others,
- there is a clear/timely escalation process of any incidents;
- and that they have contact details of a nominated person should a resident's wellbeing or behaviour cause concern

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](#).

Emergency procedures at all Alert Levels

At all alert levels, you are required to follow normal emergency procedures (e.g., in the case of fire, earthquake, tsunami etc). Emergency services will be accessible at all alert levels. The priority is to ensure all students and staff are safe.

Once you are safe, then take precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19, such as physical distancing or wearing a face covering.

More information on [emergency services and healthcare access](#) is available on the COVID-19 website.

COVID-19 vaccination information

The Government has [expanded the list of essential workers](#) eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccination to include people who work in accommodation services (including tertiary accommodation providers). DHBs will work directly with employers of Group 2(c) workers to organise vaccinations.



Full details are available on the Unite against COVID-19 website [COVID-19 vaccines | Unite against COVID-19 \(covid19.govt.nz\)](#)

Vaccination sites continue to operate under Alert Level 4 conditions. Unless you have been contacted to reschedule your appointment, please attend your vaccination appointment. By getting vaccinated, you'll be protecting yourself and playing your part to protect New Zealand. It will save lives.

A whānau-centred approach to vaccinations continues – that means that whānau Māori and Pacific families can be vaccinated when a member of the family is eligible to be vaccinated.

You can go online to the national booking system [BookMyVaccine.nz](#), or phone the COVID Vaccination Healthline on 0800 28 29 26 to reserve your spot. Detailed advice on COVID-19 vaccination is available from the Ministry of Health, which can be accessed [here](#).

Hardship Fund for Learners

The Hardship Fund for Learners (HAFL) remains available for the 2021 calendar year. It serves two purposes, to provide assistance to learners facing hardship and provide funding to learners for technology-related costs where COVID-19 restrictions remove the options for face-to-face study.

For providers: Please encourage your learners in need of support to access the funding through you. If you have questions on your existing allocation, think you will either need additional funding or an allocation, please contact the TEC through the normal channels.

You can also find further information on the [HAFL webpage](#).

Stress counselling and support

During this time, 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. Friends and family members can help you to cope.

You can also get help and information from:

- your education provider
- your GP or local community health centre
- Youthline at [0800 376 633](tel:0800376633) or www.youthline.co.nz
- [Need to Talk](#) by calling or texting [1737](tel:1737)

In an emergency always call [111](tel:111).

Locations of interest

We encourage you to continue to check the Ministry of Health's locations of interest page to find out if you might have been exposed to COVID-19. 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.



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](#).

Free counselling/Psychology Service in response to COVID-19 for Migrants and Former Refugees: [Diversity Counselling New Zealand | DCNZ Hamilton | Contact Us for help](#)

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/>

