



## Tertiary Provider and International Bulletin

Thursday 26 August 2021

### COVID-19 Update

- Thank you
- Detailed guidelines are now updated for Alert Level 4
- NZQA Annual Return Statutory Declaration deadline extended to 30 September
- Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) Financial viability assessment
- NCEA assessment dates pushed back by 2 weeks
- Hardship Fund for Learners
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### Thank you

We know that the shift to Alert Level 4 generates a great deal of work and we truly appreciate your efforts to keep taura connected to education, while we stay home to protect each other.

New Zealand will continue to remain in Alert Level 4 until **Friday 27 August 11.59pm**. Further decisions will be announced this Friday afternoon. Auckland will remain in **Alert Level 4 until 31<sup>st</sup> August** and further decisions will be reviewed on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> August.

### Detailed guidelines are now updated for Alert Level four

We have now updated our [Guidelines for Tertiary Education Organisations](#) on how to operate under Alert Level 4 to reflect current exemption criteria for tertiary provider site access.

### NZQA Annual Return Statutory Declaration deadline extended to 30 September

New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) rules require tertiary education organisations to provide NZQA with an annual statutory declaration. This declaration attests that the organisation is complying with their obligations under the Education and Training Act 2020 and the NZQA rules. The initial deadline for this was 31 August 2021.

This deadline has now been extended to **30 September**. If providers have completed theirs, they are welcome to send this in. Information on the process is available [here](#).



### **Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) Financial viability assessment**

Financial viability requirements for all TEC-funded private training establishments (PTEs) are required to demonstrate that PTEs provide quality assured qualifications which align to the Tertiary Education Strategy (TES) and are delivered through a financially viable entity.

We recognise that it is difficult for TEOs to get statutory documents witnessed during the COVID-19 lockdown. Therefore, PTEs will be able to get an extension to the due date for the statutory documents that they are required to submit for the financial viability assessment.

If you are required to complete a financial viability assessment in 2021 and cannot get financial statements witnessed in time, please call 0800 601 301 or contact [customerservice@tec.govt.nz](mailto:customerservice@tec.govt.nz), with your EDUMIS number and *financial viability assessment* in the subject line and we will grant an extension. Alternatively, you can get in touch directly with Bruce Lynch at [bruce.lynch@tec.govt.nz](mailto:bruce.lynch@tec.govt.nz) to request an extension.

TEC is happy to also accept documents signed electronically, for example via Docusign.

Further information on financial viability requirements is available on the [TEC website](#).

### **NCEA assessment dates pushed back by 2 weeks**

NCEA end of year exam and portfolio submission dates have been pushed back by 2 weeks, to recognise the disruption lockdown is causing to senior secondary students.

More information is available at [www.nzqa.govt.nz/ncea2021](http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/ncea2021)

### **Hardship Fund for Learners**

The Hardship Fund for Learners (HAFL) remains available for the 2021 calendar year, and is intended to provide temporary financial assistance for learners who are facing barriers to continuing their study or training, including technology-related costs because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The fund can be used to support learners who are experiencing technology-related financial challenges due to COVID-19 restrictions and more information is available on the [TEC website](#).

Funding is allocated to providers who work with their learners to disburse assistance based on need. The latest allocation of funding is available [on the TEC website](#).

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

### **Financial support for businesses and international students**

#### *Business support*

There is information about financial support to help with COVID-related financial pressures; businesses, organisations and self-employed people can now get information on support that is available on the Unite against COVID-19 [website](#).

#### *Emergency benefit for temporary visa holders*

There is also support available for International students which is available until **31 August**. Full information [is available here](#)

### **COVID-19 misinformation**

It is important to be mindful of COVID-19 misinformation, and rumours. The Ministry of Health continues to hold responsibility for COVID-19 Alert Level changes. Trusted COVID-19 information outlets can be found on the Unite against COVID-19 website.

[Misinformation and scams | Unite against COVID-19 \(covid19.govt.nz\)](#)



#### **School hostels at Alert Level 4**

School hostels will remain closed at Alert Level 4. However, the exception will be if there are boarders who cannot safely return home and who must continue to be cared for (for example, international students).

If you do have boarders on-site at Alert Level 4, please follow the requirements specified for Alert Level 3 for those boarders and staff. Staff should remain living on-site rather than mixing their home bubble and hostel bubble. As at Alert level 3, the biggest focus should be (wherever possible) that bubbles within your hostel do not mix. A minimum of a two-metre minimum distance should be kept between bubbles.

Consider arrangements for purchase and delivery of food and goods, minimise contact with others outside the hostel, and maintain strict hygiene and physical distancing protocols with external people. All boarders and staff must follow the public health requirements when outside the hostel.

[A reminder that guidance for school hostels for all alert levels is on our website.](#)

#### **COVID-19 vaccination information for essential workers**

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).

Due to the number of people and organisations involved, the Ministry of Health is prioritising those who are most at risk. Those people therefore being prioritised in the first instance are:

1. Frontline staff in services and businesses in which customers/clients enter their workplaces under Alert Level 4, for example supermarkets and dairies.
2. Other services/business that have direct in person interactions with customers/clients under Alert Level 4, for example hostels, accommodation (including tertiary accommodation providers), foodbanks, social and community services.
3. Essential workers in critical infrastructure roles for New Zealand, for example distribution centre staff in the grocery industry, and electricity and water companies.

The Ministry of Health will be in discussions with many organisations/companies about how their staff can be vaccinated. If you have not yet been contacted and/or your organisation does not fall into any of the above three categories, we will be in touch as soon as practicable.

Full details are available on vaccinations for essential workers is available on the [Unite against COVID-19 website](#).

#### **COVID-19 information for Māori and Pacific communities**

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

When you get a vaccination, you are not just protecting yourself but also your aiga, friends, churches and communities. Our Pacific health providers have been working very hard to support the roll out. This includes supporting Pacific families to book and get to their vaccination appointments, leading Pacific specific vaccination events and sites, coordinating community information sessions, assisting in translation services.

Further information on support packages, business and learning support is available for Pacific families on the [Unite against COVID-19 website](#).

Karawhiua is a campaign for whānau, hapū, iwi and Māori communities to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and was created to make informed decisions about their health and wellbeing. There are various resources, factsheets and social media tiles that are available and can be used for sharing. Karawhiua is



being led by Te Puni Kōkiri and is co-delivered by Te Hiringa Hauora (Health Promotion Agency) and supported by the Ministry of Health. More information on Karawhīua is available [here](#).

Further information on support packages, business and learning support is available for whānau, hapū and iwi Māori [here](#).

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](#).

### **COVID-19 information for disabled communities**

Disabled people are included in Group 3 of our vaccine rollout. People in Group 3 can book their vaccination now.

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](#).

Further information on supports available for disabled people is available [here](#)

### **COVID-19 communications resources**

We continue to 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](mailto:Alexandra.grace@education.govt.nz)

### **COVID-19 basics**

While New Zealand continues to remain under Alert Level 4, it has been great seeing everyone being compliant with the Alert Level rules. 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>

Please continue to check the **Ministry of Health's locations of interest page** to find out if you might have been exposed to COVID-19 [COVID-19: Contact tracing locations of interest | Ministry of Health NZ](#)

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/>

**Stress counselling and support is available.** 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](http://www.youthline.co.nz) or by calling or texting [1737](tel:1737)

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/>

