



Tertiary Provider and International Bulletin

Tuesday 31 August 2021

COVID-19 Update

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COVID-19 Alert Level Changes

All of New Zealand remains at Alert Level 4 until 11.59pm today. From that time, New Zealand regions south of the Auckland regional boundary will shift into Alert Level 3 and stay at Alert Level 3 for one week, with review on Monday 6 September.

For those of you in Auckland, you'll stay in Alert Level 4 for a further two weeks until Monday 13 September, while those of you in Northland will remain in Alert Level 4 until at least 11:59pm this Thursday 2 September.

Alert Level 3 – Updated Guidelines for Tertiary Education Organisations

On Sunday 29 August, we updated our [Guidelines for Tertiary Education Organisations](#) based on public health advice in advance of the next COVID-19 Public Health Response health order.

We can now confirm that the updated Guidelines are consistent with the Public Health Response Order, which you can find [here](#).

The key changes in our Alert Level 3 guidance are: staff/student bubbles should be limited to 10 people or fewer and at-risk staff should not be onsite unless fully vaccinated. We highlighted these and other minor changes in our updated guidance to help TEOs prepare for Alert Level 3 in our last bulletin. These can be found [here](#).

Class time limits update

We have made one minor additional clarification to our detailed guidance on time limits for classes at Alert Level 3. The Ministry of Health's Public Health team has confirmed that the time limit of two hours stated in our guidelines applies to classes held indoors only.

Classes (including assessments and examinations) that take place outdoors are not subject to time limits, but all other relevant infection control measures apply – including physical distancing of 1m, contact



tracing, staff/student bubble limits of 10, and sanitisation of shared equipment between use. Face coverings are strongly encouraged.

Guidance on requirements for on-site tertiary exams at Alert Level 3 updated

The rules for on-site examinations at Alert Level 3 have changed, due to the increased risk of the Delta variant. On-site examinations will only be allowed at Alert Level 3 for existing student/staff bubbles of 10, where it has not been possible to deliver teaching online.

Our detailed guidance on the requirements for on-site tertiary exams at Alert Level 3 has now been updated and can be found [here](#).

Update to tertiary student accommodation and travel guidance

On Sunday, 29 August we also updated our guidance on tertiary student accommodation and the key points are:

- Students in an Alert Level 4 area must continue to remain in their current accommodation, unless there is an emergency situation
- Students in an Alert Level 3 area are advised to remain in their current accommodation. However, students may move out of their accommodation in an Alert Level 3 area if relocating on a permanent or long-term basis to accommodation in an Alert Level 3 area or returning to their primary home or place of residence in an Alert Level 4 area provided conditions are met.
- **Students are strongly discouraged from moving into or returning to student accommodation at Alert Level 3 if they have been offsite for Alert Level 4, unless it is an emergency.**
- Students must not change their accommodation if they have been directed by a medical officer of health to isolate.

COVID-19 vaccinations are open to everyone from 1 September

Bookings for everyone aged 12 and over open from tomorrow. 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.

Vaccines and healthcare for international students

All publicly funded COVID-19 related care – including testing, treatment and vaccinations – is provided to anyone who needs it, including international students, free of charge.

Students can read (and share with their families) translated information on New Zealand's vaccine rollout [here](#). More COVID-19 information for international students, including health and wellbeing advice, can be found on [NauMai NZ COVID-19 page](#).

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 Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) has [allocated HAFL funding to 90 TEOs](#) in 2021. For this year, the TEC did not allocate HAFL to TEOs that had previously declined to receive HAFL funding in 2020. TEC are reaching out to these TEOs now, as well as to TEOs that declined to receive funding in 2021, to check if their need has changed. If any funding remains after this, the TEC is considering how that funding might be allocated to others.

There is no application process for HAFL funding, please see TEC's [Funding and Payments page](#) for more information.



This week, TEC have also allocated HAFL to TEOs receiving funding from the Industry Training Fund to support work-based learners with access to technology.

More information is available on the [HAFL webpage](#).

Mental health support during Alert Level 4 and 3

This can be an unsettling time, and the uncertainty can have an impact on our mental wellbeing. It's okay to feel overwhelmed, upset or frustrated. Looking after your mental wellbeing is important, and can be supported through accessing a range of the following digital, self-help resources:

- **Mental Wealth** by Le Va provides online resources to help young people look after their mental health, and includes online counselling: <https://www.mentalwealth.nz/>
- **The Lowdown** provides videos and articles about anxiety and depression and also includes support through a free 24/7 helpline, text and webchat: <https://thelowdown.co.nz/>
- **Aroha** is a chatbot to help young people cope with stress: <https://portal.habits.auckland.ac.nz/Portal/#/landing-covid19bot-trial>

There are also a number of helplines that are available and can connect people to trained counsellors. These include:

- 1737 which is available 24/7 via free call or text
- Youthline which can be accessed by calling 0800 376 633 or by free texting 234. Youthline also has a web chat function
- OUTline has a free helpline available between 6pm and 9pm for members of the rainbow community. This can be accessed by calling 0800 688 5463.

If you, or someone you know, is in need of urgent mental health or addiction treatment, crisis mental health and addiction services are continuing to operate. Call your local hospital or district health board about how to get help. The numbers for crisis mental health teams are also on the [Ministry of Health website](#).

If you have immediate concerns for the safety of yourself or someone else, please call 111.

Support for Pacific students

In addition to the support and services available to all New Zealanders, there are Pacific mental health and addiction providers that have activated pandemic plans and are supporting their communities digitally where possible. These providers include:

- Pasifika Futures in Waitematā, Canterbury and Counties Manukau
- Fonua Ola in Counties Manukau
- Kāute Pasifika in Waikato
- Pacific Health Service Hutt Valley and Naku Enei in the Hutt Valley
- Vaka Tautua in Capital and Coast DHB and Auckland

Ministry of Health are in touch with the Pacific mental health community in Auckland and are looking at options to support as needed

COVID-19: locations of interest and the basics

Locations of interest

With a high number of locations of interest, we ask that providers continue to be diligent and contact their stakeholders directly, as they have been doing, if they become a location of interest.



COVID-19 basics

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

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 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/>

