



## Tertiary Provider and International Bulletin

Tuesday 28 September 2021

### COVID-19 Update

- COVID-19 Alert Level status
- Government announcement on new permitted reasons for cross-boundary travel
- For students: Updated accommodation and travel guidance
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- COVID-19: locations of interest and the basics

### COVID-19 Alert Level status

Auckland continues to remain at Alert Level 3, with a review on Monday 4 October. Upper Hauraki moved to Alert Level 2 on Saturday 25 September. The rest of New Zealand is at Alert Level 2 and will remain there while Auckland is at Alert Level 3.

General [Alert Level 3](#) information is available on the Unite Against COVID-19 website and detailed guidance for tertiary education providers is available on our [website](#).

### Government announcement on new permitted reasons for cross-boundary travel

The Government announced today that additional permitted reasons for people to cross the Alert Level 3 boundary into an Alert Level 2 area will be introduced from 11.59pm tonight, Tuesday 28 September.

Relevant to the tertiary sector, people in Alert Level 3 areas will be permitted to cross the travel boundary into Alert Level 2:

- if they are going to their principal home or place of residence;
- if they are relocating their home or place of residence on a permanent or long-term basis as a result of—
  - starting new employment;
  - attending tertiary education.

A [full list of permitted travel](#) will be available on the Unite against COVID-19 website. Most people are still not permitted to travel across the alert level boundaries.

### For students: Updated guidance on travel and accommodation

Following these changes, our new guidance to students on cross-boundary travel from an Alert Level 3 area to an Alert Level 2 area is:

- Students in an Alert Level 3 area are permitted to return to their principal home or place of residence in an Alert Level 2 area, or relocate their home or place of residence on a permanent or long-term basis as a result of attending tertiary education in an Alert Level 2 area. Students must



not change their accommodation if they have been directed by a medical officer of health to isolate.

- Students in an Alert Level 3 area intending to move into tertiary student accommodation in an Alert Level 2 area should contact their provider before they leave their current accommodation to facilitate this movement.
- When travelling across an Alert Level boundary, students must carry evidence of a negative COVID-19 test result, or a medical certificate confirming they do not have COVID-19 symptoms and, for a particular physical or other need, are unable to have a COVID-19 test. **You must get tested or be examined within the 72 hours prior to crossing the Alert Level boundary.** (Students should also provide this evidence to student accommodation providers before moving in.) Students must also carry evidence of their purpose of travel and destination e.g. proof of accommodation arrangements when travelling. See [Personal travel across an Alert Level boundary | Unite against COVID-19 \(covid19.govt.nz\)](#) for more information.
- Once in an Alert Level 2 area, students who have relocated from Alert Level 3 are able to follow Alert Level 2 rules, including attending their tertiary provider and participating in social gatherings, consistent with public health requirements. Students should, however, be alert to symptoms and get tested if any symptoms develop.

We have updated our [Guidelines for Tertiary Education Organisations](#) in line with these changes. Further changes may be required following the confirmation of the amendments to the Health Order this evening.

The rules for travel and changing accommodation for students in Alert Level 2 areas have not changed.

#### **For TEOS: Guidance for accommodation providers**

We have made two changes to our detailed guidelines in relation to student accommodation, following the permitted travel changes outlined above, on advice from the Ministry of Health:

- We strongly recommend that student accommodation providers request to see evidence of a negative COVID-19 test result (or a medical certificate confirming they do not have COVID-19 symptoms and, for a particular physical or other need, are unable to have a COVID-19 test) from students returning from an Alert Level 3 area before they are allowed to move into accommodation.
- We now encourage staff and residents to wear masks in shared and communal areas at Alert Level 2 (except for eating and drinking).

Students who have relocated from Alert Level 3 are able to follow Alert Level 2 rules. Tertiary accommodation providers may implement additional public health protocols to meet the health and safety needs of their staff and residents, and should do so in consultation with them.

#### **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/>

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>

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/>

