



Bulletin – Tertiary Provider and International Bulletin

26th August, 2020

COVID-19 UPDATE

Use of face coverings or masks at tertiary education facilities

From midnight Sunday 30 August, it will become mandatory under Alert Level 2 or higher to wear a face covering or a mask when using public transport, which includes buses, trains, ferries, planes, taxis and Ubers. Further details about face coverings on public transport will be announced tomorrow and we will share those details with you.

While wearing face covering or masks in other situations (e.g. when on a tertiary campus) is not mandatory, the Ministry recommends that students bring face coverings or masks with them when attending on-site activities, and make use of these where appropriate, particularly where physical distancing may be difficult; for example in a confined space with other students or staff, such as in workshops, lifts, transportation organised by the tertiary provider, etc.

It can be helpful to wear face coverings or masks even in situations where contact tracing is in place and where all those involved are known to each other. Wearing a face mask can reduce the risk of people who have COVID-19, spreading the virus to others. They may feel well or have no obvious symptoms. A face mask can help stop infectious droplets spreading when they speak, laugh, cough or sneeze.

Tertiary education providers may wish to issue students and staff with guidance setting out their expectations for how face coverings and masks should be used when attending on-site activities. This guidance should also reiterate that face coverings or masks are legally mandated when using public transport at Level 2 (from midnight Sunday 30 August).

It is important to highlight that used face coverings or masks are potentially something that could infect others if the wearer was to have COVID-19, so these should be treated carefully. If it's a disposable mask, put it in a rubbish bin with a lid, or in a plastic bag and then into a rubbish bin. People should not leave used masks lying around.

Further information on masks and face coverings can be found on the [COVID19.govt website](https://www.covid19.govt.nz/).



Auckland's transition to Level 2 – clarification on what constitutes a 'gathering'

Auckland will transition into Alert Level 2 from midnight Sunday 30 August, though mass gatherings will be restricted to 10. For the rest of New Zealand gatherings are limited to 100, under the Level 2 restrictions that continue to apply.

However, education-related activities (such as classes, workshops, research, etc.) are not considered 'gatherings' and are not subject to this restriction (provided appropriate public health control measures are in place). These same education-related activities will therefore not be restricted to 10 when Auckland moves to transitional Level 2 from midnight Sunday.

For clarity, when Auckland transitions into Alert Level 2, if strict public health control measures are in place, all on-site activities at tertiary education facilities can resume i.e. classes, lectures, labs, workshops, tutorials, noho, meetings, and research. . The public health control measures for TEOs to put in place under Level 2 can be found [here](#).

Other gatherings that are not directly education-related, such as speaking events open to the public, cultural events, social events, etc. must follow the normal restrictions that apply to mass gatherings (i.e. maximum of 10 at Level 2 in Auckland, and maximum of 100 at Level 2 for the rest of New Zealand).

Graduation ceremonies, while an important part of a student's journey through the tertiary system, are not considered directly education-related and must therefore comply with the normal restrictions for mass gatherings, as above.

Travel in and out of Auckland remains restricted until midnight Sunday 30 August

Travel in and out of Auckland will remain restricted until 11.59pm on 30 August 2020, at which point Auckland will move to Alert Level 2 (with gatherings restricted to 10).

This reopening of inter-regional travel creates a degree of risk of potentially spreading the COVID-19 to other parts of the country. Those people who are in Auckland, including tertiary students and staff, should exercise common sense and caution when considering inter-regional travel. People should not travel if they are feeling unwell or have COVID-19 symptoms.

Until Auckland goes to Alert Level 2, only some people are permitted to travel across the regional boundary - see the list of permitted cross-border travel: <https://covid19.govt.nz/travel-and-the-border/travel-within-new-zealand/regional-travel/>



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 information 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/>

