

# New Zealand COVID-19 Alert Levels Summary

- The Alert Levels are determined by the Government and specify the public health and social measures to be taken in the fight against COVID-19. Further guidance is available on [covid19.govt.nz](https://www.covid19.govt.nz).
- The measures may be updated based on new scientific knowledge about COVID-19, information about the effectiveness of control measures in New Zealand and overseas, or the application of Alert Levels at different times (for example, the application may be different depending on if NZ is moving down or up Alert Levels).

- Different parts of the country may be at different Alert Levels. We can move up and down Alert Levels.
- Services including supermarkets, health services, emergency services, utilities and goods transport will continue to operate at any level. Employers in those sectors must continue to meet health and safety obligations.
- Restrictions are cumulative (for example, at Alert Level 4, all restrictions from Alert Levels 1, 2 and 3 apply).

Updated 17 August 2021

## ELIMINATION STRATEGY – New Zealand is working together to eliminate COVID-19

Alert Level	Risk assessment	Measures that can be applied locally or nationally
<b>Level 4 – Lockdown</b> Likely the disease is not contained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is sustained and intensive community transmission.</li> <li>• Outbreaks are widespread.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stay home in your bubble, other than for essential personal movement.</li> <li>• Safe recreational activity is allowed in your local area.</li> <li>• Travel is severely limited.</li> <li>• All gatherings are cancelled, and all public facilities close.</li> <li>• Businesses close except for essential services (for example, supermarkets, pharmacies, clinics, petrol stations) and lifeline utilities.</li> <li>• Educational facilities close.</li> <li>• Rationing of supplies and requisitioning of facilities is possible.</li> <li>• Reprioritisation of healthcare services is possible.</li> <li>• You are encouraged to wear a face covering whenever you leave the house.</li> </ul>
<b>Level 3 – Restrict</b> High risk the disease is not contained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are multiple cases of community transmission.</li> <li>• There are multiple active clusters in multiple regions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stay home in your bubble, other than for essential personal movement, including going to work or school if you have to, or for local recreation.</li> <li>• Keep 2 metres apart from people you do not know outside home, or 1 metre in controlled environments such as schools and workplaces.</li> <li>• Stay within your immediate household bubble, but you can expand this to reconnect with close family/whānau, enable caregiving, or support isolated people. This extended bubble should remain exclusive.</li> <li>• Schools (years 1 to 10) and Early Childhood Education centres can safely open, but with limited capacity. Children should learn at home if possible.</li> <li>• You must work from home unless it is not possible.</li> <li>• Businesses cannot have customers on site, unless it is a supermarket, bank, primary produce retailer, pharmacy, petrol station or hardware store providing goods to trade customers, or it is an emergency or critical situation.</li> <li>• Other businesses can open premises, but customers cannot enter.</li> <li>• Low-risk local recreation activities are allowed.</li> <li>• Public facilities are closed (for example, libraries, museums, cinemas, food courts, gyms, pools, markets).</li> <li>• Gatherings of up to 10 people are allowed but only for weddings, civil union ceremonies, funerals and tangihanga. Physical distancing and public health measures must be maintained.</li> <li>• Healthcare services should use virtual, non-contact consultations if possible.</li> <li>• Inter-regional travel is highly limited, for example, for critical workers, with limited exemptions for others.</li> <li>• People at high risk of severe illness, such as older people and those with existing medical conditions, are encouraged to stay at home where possible, and take additional precautions when leaving home. You may choose to work.</li> </ul>
<b>Level 2 – Reduce</b> The disease is contained, but the risk of community transmission remains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There could be limited community transmission.</li> <li>• There are active clusters in more than one region.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You can reconnect with friends and family, and socialise in groups of up to 100, go shopping and travel domestically, if following public health guidance.</li> <li>• Keep 2 metres apart from people you do not know in retail stores. Try to keep 2 metres apart from people you don't know when out in public. Keep 1 metre apart in controlled environments like workplaces, where practicable.</li> <li>• No more than 100 people allowed at social gatherings, including weddings, civil union ceremonies, birthdays, funerals and tangihanga.</li> <li>• Businesses can open to the public if following public health guidance, such as physical distancing and record keeping. Alternative ways of working encouraged where possible.</li> <li>• Hospitality businesses must keep groups of customers separated and seated. Maximum of 100 people in a defined space.</li> <li>• Sport and recreation activities are allowed, subject to conditions on gatherings, record keeping, and – where practical – physical distancing.</li> <li>• Public facilities such as museums, libraries and pools can open if they comply with public health measures and ensure 1 metre physical distancing.</li> <li>• Event facilities, including cinemas, stadiums, concert venues and casinos, can have more than 100 people at a time, provided that there are no more than 100 in a defined space, and the groups do not mix.</li> <li>• Health and disability care services can operate as normally as possible.</li> <li>• It is safe to send your children to schools, early learning services and tertiary education. There will be appropriate measures in place.</li> <li>• People at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19 (for example, those with underlying medical conditions, especially if not well-controlled, and older people) are encouraged to take additional precautions when leaving home. You may work, if you agree with your employer that you can do so safely.</li> <li>• Passengers and workers in transport stations must keep 1 metre apart, as far as reasonably practicable.</li> </ul>
<b>Level 1 – Prepare</b> The disease is contained in New Zealand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• COVID-19 is uncontrolled overseas.</li> <li>• There could be sporadic imported cases.</li> <li>• There could be isolated local transmission in New Zealand.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are border entry measures to minimise the risk of importing COVID-19 cases.</li> <li>• Intensive testing for COVID-19 is carried out.</li> <li>• Rapid contact tracing of any positive case is carried out.</li> <li>• Schools and workplaces can open and must operate safely.</li> <li>• There are no restrictions on personal movement, but you are encouraged to maintain a record of where you have been.</li> <li>• There are no restrictions on gatherings, but organisers are encouraged to maintain records to enable contact tracing.</li> <li>• Stay home if you are sick, report flu-like or COVID-19 symptoms.</li> <li>• Wash and dry your hands, cough into your elbow, do not touch your face.</li> <li>• Avoid public transport or travel if you're sick.</li> <li>• There are no restrictions on workplaces or services, but you are encouraged to maintain records to enable contact tracing.</li> <li>• NZ COVID Tracer QR codes issued by the NZ Government must be displayed in workplaces and on public transport to enable use of the NZ COVID Tracer App for contact tracing.</li> <li>• Face coverings are required on public transport and aircraft, but not inter-island ferries and school buses. Children under 12, passengers in taxis or ride-share services, and people with disabilities or mental health conditions do not have to wear face coverings.</li> </ul>