

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 New Zealand 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 27 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
Level 4 – Lockdown Likely the disease is not contained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is sustained and intensive community transmission. • Outbreaks are widespread. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay home in your bubble, other than for essential personal movement. • Safe recreational activity is allowed in your local area. • Travel is severely limited. • All gatherings are cancelled, and all public facilities close. • If you are working for an Alert Level 4 business or service and you have no available options for childcare, you can extend your household bubble to include a carer for your children. • When leaving your home, you legally must wear a face covering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • on public transport and at departure points, for example airports, train stations and bus stops • if you are a driver or passenger of a taxi or ride-share vehicle • when you visit a healthcare facility (other than for a patient) • inside retail businesses that are still open, such as supermarkets, pharmacies and petrol stations.
Level 3 – Restrict Medium risk of community transmission – active but managed clusters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are multiple cases of community transmission. • There are multiple active clusters in multiple regions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Keep 2 metres apart from people you do not know outside your bubble (including at supermarkets, petrol station and pharmacies), or 1 metre in controlled environments such as schools and workplaces. • 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 legally must remain exclusive. • Schools (years 1 to 10) and Early Childhood Education centres can safely open, but with limited capacity. Children should learn at home if possible. • You should work from home unless it is not possible. • 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.

Level 2 – Reduce

The disease is contained, but the risk of community transmission remains

- There could be limited community transmission.
- There are active clusters in more than one region.
- 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.
- Keep 2 metres apart from people you don't 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.
- No more than 100 people allowed at social gatherings, including weddings, civil union ceremonies, birthdays, funerals and tangihanga.
- Businesses can open to the public if following public health guidance, including physical distancing and record keeping. Alternative ways of working encouraged where possible.
- Hospitality businesses legally must keep groups of customers separated and seated. Maximum of 100 people in a defined space.
- You legally must wear a face covering when:
 - on public transport and at departure points, for example airports, train stations, bus stops, and in taxi or ride-share vehicles
 - on flights
 - you visit a healthcare facility (other than as a patient)
 - you visit an aged care facility (other than as a patient)
 - inside retail businesses, for example supermarkets, shopping malls, indoor marketplaces and takeaway food stores
 - visiting the public areas within courts and tribunals, local and central Government agencies, and social service providers with customer service counters
- You legally must wear a face covering if you work:
 - as a driver of a taxi or ride-share vehicle
 - at close contact businesses, for example barbers, beauticians and hairdressers
 - in a public facing role at a hospitality venue, for example a cafe, restaurant, bar or nightclub
 - at retail businesses, such as supermarkets, shopping malls, indoor marketplaces, takeaway food stores
 - in the public areas of courts and tribunals, local and central Government agencies, and social service providers with customer service counters
 - at indoor public facilities, for example libraries and museums (but not swimming pools)
- 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.
- Health and disability care services can operate as normally as possible.
- It is safe to send your children to schools, early learning services and tertiary education. There will be appropriate measures in place.
- 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.
- Passengers and workers in transport stations legally must keep 1 metre apart, as far as reasonably practicable.
- Sport and recreation activities are allowed, subject to conditions on gatherings, record keeping, and – where practical – physical distancing.
- Public facilities such as museums, libraries and pools can open if they comply with public health measures and ensure 1 metre physical distancing.

Level 1 – Prepare

The disease is contained in New Zealand

- COVID-19 is uncontrolled overseas.
- There could be sporadic imported cases.
- There could be isolated local transmission in New Zealand.
- There are border entry measures to minimise the risk of importing COVID-19 cases.
- Intensive testing for COVID-19 is carried out.
- Rapid contact tracing of any positive case is carried out.
- Schools and workplaces can open, and must operate safely.
- There are no restrictions on personal movement, but you are encouraged to maintain a record of where you have been.
- There are no restrictions on gatherings, but organisers are encouraged to maintain records to enable contact tracing.
- Recording keeping is a requirement at all Alert Levels at busy places and events so contact tracing can happen quickly and may help prevent future lockdowns. This requirement is for businesses and locations to take steps to ensure a record is kept. Places where it will be mandatory have systems and processes to ensure records are kept include:
 - hospitality venues, including cafes, restaurants, bars, nightclubs (for customers)
 - indoor event facilities, such as cinemas, theatres, casinos and concerts (for visitors only)
 - aged care, healthcare facilities (for visitors only) • exercise facilities (for customers)
 - close contact businesses, for example beauticians, barbers and hairdressers (for customers)
 - indoor public facilities, such as libraries, museums and swimming pools (for visitors only)
 - courts and tribunals, local and central government agencies, and social services providers with customer service counters (for visitors only)
 - Social gatherings including those at marae, weddings, funerals, tangihanga and faith-based services.
- Stay home if you are sick, report flu-like or COVID-19 symptoms.
- Wash and dry your hands, cough into your elbow, do not touch your face.
- Avoid public transport or travel if you're sick.
- NZ COVID Tracer QR codes issued by the NZ Government legally must be displayed in workplaces and on public transport to enable use of the NZ COVID Tracer App for contact tracing.
- 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.