

# 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).
- 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 23 September 2021

## Elimination Strategy – New Zealand is working together to eliminate COVID-19

Alert Level	Risk assessment	Measures that can be applied locally or nationally
<p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>Lockdown</b></p> <p>Likely the disease is not contained</p>	<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.</li> <li>• No travel is allowed except for necessities or to undertake safe recreational activities. You must work and learn from home.</li> <li>• No gatherings are allowed. All public and education facilities close.</li> <li>• If you work 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.</li> <li>• Businesses must close except for necessities (e.g. supermarkets, pharmacies, petrol stations) and lifeline utilities. Green grocers, butchers, bakeries, and fishmongers can sell uncooked food items online and must deliver all orders.</li> <li>• As in Alert Level 2, you legally must wear a face covering in some settings. Refer to the detailed table for more information. It's recommended you wear a face covering whenever you leave the house.</li> <li>• Rationing of supplies and requisitioning of facilities as well as reprioritisation of healthcare services is possible.</li> <li>• Members of a household or shared bubble may view or accompany the deceased in a funeral home, cemetery or faith-based institution subject to strict conditions.</li> </ul>
<p><b>3</b></p> <p><b>Restrict</b></p> <p>Medium risk of community transmission – active but managed clusters</p>	<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 and keep your bubble small. You can expand to reconnect with close family/whānau, enable caregiving, or support isolated people. This extended bubble legally must remain exclusive.</li> <li>• Travel is still restricted, so stay local. Inter-regional travel is highly limited with limited permissions. You can travel for work, school, to pick up necessities and good purchased in a contactless way or undertake low-risk recreational activities. Work and learn from home if you can.</li> <li>• Only people who can't work from home should return to businesses that can safely open under Alert Level 3.</li> <li>• You legally must wear a face covering in some settings. Refer to the detailed table for more information. It's recommended you wear a face covering whenever you leave the house.</li> <li>• Gatherings of up to 10 people are only allowed for weddings and civil union ceremonies (inclusive of staff), funerals and tangihanga (exclusive of staff). Up to 5 staff may be present. Physical distancing and record keeping are legally required. Food and drink cannot be served.</li> <li>• When you leave home, keep a 2-metre distance from others when in public or 1-metre in controlled environments like workplaces, where practical</li> <li>• Customers are only allowed inside specific businesses: supermarkets, banks, primary produce retailers, pharmacies, petrol stations or hardware stores providing goods to trade customers, or if it is an emergency or critical situation.</li> <li>• Other businesses can open if they trade in a contactless way.</li> <li>• Public facilities remain closed. Early childhood centres and schools will open for students up to Year 10 for those who can't learn from home.</li> <li>• Healthcare services should use virtual, non-contact consultations where possible.</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>
<p><b>2</b></p> <p><b>Reduce</b></p> <p>Low risk of community transmission within applied area</p>	<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 connect with friends and whānau in person, socialise in groups and go shopping and travel domestically, if following public health guidance.</li> <li>• You can return to the place where you work or learn but alternative ways of working are still encouraged</li> <li>• Businesses, schools, early learning services, tertiary education providers and public facilities, such as museums, libraries and pools can now all open with additional health measures in place.</li> <li>• Gatherings of up to 100 people in a defined space are allowed including weddings, funerals and tangihanga. Mandatory record keeping (as in Alert Level 1) and physical distancing are legally required.</li> <li>• Hospitality businesses legally must keep groups of customers separated and seated. Maximum of 100 people in a defined space.</li> <li>• Event facilities, including cinemas, stadiums, concert venues and casinos can have up to 100 people. You can have more than 100 people in an event facility, but only if the people are in separate 'defined spaces', and there should not be direct airflow between the defined spaces.</li> <li>• You legally must wear a face covering if you are aged 12 and over when: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- using public transport, airplanes (including in departure points such as train/bus stations) and in a taxi or ride-share vehicle</li> <li>- visiting a healthcare or aged care facility (other than for a patient)</li> <li>- inside retail businesses, such as supermarkets, pharmacies, shopping malls, indoor marketplaces, takeaway food stores and public venues – such as museums and libraries.</li> <li>- visiting the public areas within courts and tribunals, local and central Government agencies, and social service providers with customer service counters</li> <li>- providing services while on site in a home or place of residence (except for providing childcare).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• You legally must wear a face covering if you work: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- as a driver of a taxi or ride-share vehicle</li> <li>- at close contact businesses, for example barbers, beauticians and hairdressers</li> <li>- in a public facing role at a hospitality venue, for example a cafe, restaurant, bar or nightclub</li> <li>- at retail businesses, such as supermarkets, shopping malls, indoor marketplaces, takeaway food stores</li> <li>- in the public areas of courts and tribunals, local and central Government agencies, and social service providers with customer service counters</li> <li>- at indoor public facilities, for example libraries and museums (but not swimming pools)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Health and disability care services can operate as normally as possible.</li> <li>• Keep 2 metres apart from people you do not know in public and places like retail stores, libraries, gyms, and museums.</li> <li>• Keep 1 metres apart from people in other places like office buildings and factories, and in places where there is a cap on numbers, like cinemas and hospitality.</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, unless fully vaccinated. You may work, if you agree with your employer that you can do so safely.</li> <li>• Sport and recreation activities are allowed, subject to conditions on gatherings, record keeping, and – where practical – physical distancing. Gyms – 2m physical distancing, outdoor teams sport – no physical distancing.</li> <li>• Public transport must be seated only.</li> </ul>
<p><b>1</b></p> <p><b>Prepare</b></p> <p>The disease is contained in New Zealand</p>	<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>• All businesses, facilities, schools, education providers and workplaces can open.</li> <li>• NZ COVID Tracer QR codes issued by the NZ Government legally must be displayed in workplaces and on public transport.</li> <li>• The following places legally must have systems and processes to ensure visitors keep a record of where they have been (whether via the NZ COVID Tracer app or otherwise), including healthcare facilities, aged care facilities, close-contact businesses, hospitality venues, public facilities, exercise facilities and social gatherings such as weddings, funerals and tangihanga.</li> <li>• In all other places, we encourage you to keep track of everywhere you have been, as this helps contact tracing to identify any potential spread of COVID-19.</li> <li>• There are no restrictions on personal movement or gatherings.</li> <li>• In all other settings you are encouraged to maintain a record of where you have been.</li> <li>• You legally must wear a face covering if you are aged 12 and over when: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- using public transport and airplanes (excluding inter-island ferries and school buses).</li> <li>- exclusions apply for people with disabilities or mental health conditions.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>