

# 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 the [Covid19.govt.nz](https://www.covid19.govt.nz) website.
- 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 (e.g. 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.
- Essential 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 (at Alert Level 4, all restrictions from Alert Level 2 and 3 apply).

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

Alert Level	Risk Assessment	Range of Measures (can be applied locally or nationally)
<b>Level 4 – Lockdown</b>  Likely the disease is not contained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community transmission is occurring.</li> <li>• Widespread outbreaks and new clusters.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People instructed to stay at home (in their bubble) other than for essential personal movement.</li> <li>• Safe recreational activity is allowed in local area.</li> <li>• Travel is severely limited.</li> <li>• All gatherings cancelled and all public venues closed.</li> </ul>
<b>Level 3 – Restrict</b>  High risk the disease is not contained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community transmission might be happening.</li> <li>• New clusters may emerge but can be controlled through testing and contact tracing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People instructed to stay home in their bubble other than for essential personal movement – including to go to work, school if they have to or for local recreation.</li> <li>• Physical distancing of two metres outside home (including on public transport), or one metre in controlled environments like schools and workplaces.</li> <li>• People must stay within their immediate household bubble, but can expand this to reconnect with close family / whānau, or bring in caregivers, 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 will have limited capacity. Children should learn at home if possible.</li> <li>• People must work from home unless that is not possible.</li> <li>• Businesses can open premises, but cannot physically interact with customers.</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>• Household transmission could be occurring.</li> <li>• Single or isolated cluster outbreaks.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical distancing of one metre outside home (including on public transport).</li> <li>• Gatherings of up to 100 people indoors and 500 outdoors allowed while maintaining physical distancing and contact tracing requirements.</li> <li>• Sport and recreation activities are allowed if conditions on gatherings are met, physical distancing is followed and travel is local.</li> <li>• Public venues can open but must comply with conditions on gatherings, and undertake public health measures.</li> <li>• Health services operate as normally as possible.</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>• Isolated household transmission could be occurring in New Zealand.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Border entry measures to minimise risk of importing COVID-19 cases.</li> <li>• Intensive testing for COVID-19.</li> <li>• Rapid contact tracing of any positive case.</li> <li>• Self-isolation and quarantine required.</li> <li>• Schools and workplaces open, and must operate safely.</li> <li>• Physical distancing encouraged.</li> </ul>

- Businesses closed except for essential services (e.g. supermarkets, pharmacies, clinics, petrol stations) and lifeline utilities.
- Educational facilities closed.
- Rationing of supplies and requisitioning of facilities possible.
- Reprioritisation of healthcare services.

- Low risk local recreation activities are allowed.
- Public venues are closed (e.g. libraries, museums, cinemas, food courts, gyms, pools, playgrounds, markets).
- Gatherings of up to 10 people are allowed but only for wedding services, funerals and tangihanga. Physical distancing and public health measures must be maintained.
- Healthcare services use virtual, non-contact consultations where possible.
- Inter-regional travel is highly limited (e.g. for essential workers, with limited exemptions for others).
- People at high risk of severe illness (older people and those with existing medical conditions) are encouraged to stay at home where possible, and take additional precautions when leaving home. They may choose to work.

- Most businesses open, and business premises can be open for staff and customers with appropriate measures in place. Alternative ways of working encouraged (e.g. remote working, shift-based working, physical distancing, staggering meal breaks, flexible leave).
- Schools and Early Childhood Education centres open, with distance learning available for those unable to attend school (e.g. self-isolating).
- People advised to avoid non-essential inter-regional travel.
- People at high risk of severe illness (older people and those with existing medical conditions) are encouraged to stay at home where possible, and take additional precautions when leaving home. They may choose to work.

- No restrictions on gatherings.
- Stay home if you're sick, report flu-like symptoms.
- Wash and dry hands, cough into elbow, don't touch your face.
- No restrictions on domestic transport – avoid public transport or travel if sick.