



COVID-19 NewsBrief – 20 September 2021

Finally, after our most prolonged level-4 COVID-19 lockdown, Auckland is set to enjoy slightly more relaxed restrictions at alert level-3, which will commence at 11:59 pm on Tuesday 21 September.

The lower alert level comes with a few more freedoms, but everyone must remember that a number of restrictions are still in place to keep us all safe during this time. While Auckland remains at alert level 3 the Wage Subsidy will continue to apply.

We set out below what you are permitted to do and what restrictions still apply alert level 3:

Accessing Healthcare Services

- Healthcare services will open and operate normally, where possible.
- Healthcare businesses, such as pharmacies, can open.
- Hospitals will remain open for emergency care. Some non-urgent services or treatment may be rescheduled.
- When visiting a healthcare facility at alert level 3, you must wear a face covering.
- Any appointments with a medical professional will need to be online or over the phone, where possible.
- Community health services and screening services can continue.
- Some disability and aged care services can continue but will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Going to Work

- At alert level 3, you must still work from home unless that is not possible.
- People who return to work must follow public health guidance. These include all employees and visitors having to wear face coverings, keeping a record of people visiting through the COVID19 Tracer app or physical record and maintaining a distance of two metres from others.

Schools and Tertiary Institutions

- All children should continue learn from home, but schools will be open for children whose parents or carers need to go to work.
- Play centres and playgroups remain closed.
- Schools should provide distance learning options for all who are learning from home, including those who need to self-isolate and cannot attend school.
- Schools may set up bubbles to help maintain physical distancing in the classroom and outside.
- Parents and carers who are visitors to the school must keep 2 metres apart from people outside their household.
- All tertiary education providers should continue to deliver their courses online.
- Where online learning is not an option, for example lab work or research, these can be accommodated if public health guidelines are able to be met.
- Classes or workshops must be limited to 10 people per class. Each class is considered a 'bubble' and must not interact with any other student/staff bubbles of 10.

- Student accommodation such as university halls of residence can remain open with physical distancing and extra hygiene measures.

Eating Out

- Alert level 3 means you can once again enjoy takeaways, but no restaurant dining just yet.
- Cafes, restaurants and takeaways may open only for contactless pick-up, delivery or drive-through.
- Liquor stores can only offer contactless pick-up and delivery, if their liquor licence allows delivery.
- Food delivery services can also operate at alert level 3.
- Food and drink cannot be consumed on the premises.

Personal Service Businesses

- Businesses that require close physical contact, such as hairdressers, barbers, or nail salons, have to remain closed.
- Farmers' markets, entertainment and tourist facilities, night clubs, and gyms cannot open.
- Home cleaners cannot work in clients' homes.

Socialising

- At alert level 3, you must maintain your household bubble. You cannot invite friends and extended family who are not in your bubble to your home.
- You may expand your bubble slightly, but this is limited to close family, bringing in caregivers, or supporting isolated people.
- Remember to keep your bubble exclusive, and should someone in the bubble feel unwell, they must immediately self-isolate from everyone else.
- Gatherings of up to 10 people can go ahead, but only for wedding and civil union ceremonies, as well as funerals and tangihanga.
- Keep track of where you've been by scanning in with the Covid Tracer app.
- Keep 2 metres away from people you do not live with, and avoid close physical contact.
- Unfortunately, you will not be able to visit family or friends living in a rest home or aged care facility until we revert to alert level 2.

Travel

- During alert level 3, you can travel within your local area, for example going to work or school, and you may use public transport to get there.
- Strict health and safety requirements still apply, including a requirement to wear a face covering on all forms of public transport.
- At alert Level 3 travel between regions is heavily restricted.
- For essential workers, travel in and out of an alert level 3 region is only allowed for specific reasons. If you need to travel to a region that is at a different alert level for work purposes, you will need to check that your reason for travel meets the criteria.
- If not, you have to apply for a travel exemption through the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE).
- When crossing an alert level boundary, you need evidence of a COVID19 test in the last 7 days.
- People travelling for personal reasons, with an exemption, now also need a negative test up to 72 hours before they travel.

Recreation

- Tramping is allowed for day walks on easy trails close to your home.
- DOC huts and campsites are closed.
- It is recommended that you choose low-risk activities so you do not need rescuing or medical care.

- If you are an experienced surfer, mountain biker or horse rider, you can participate in these activities at a spot close to you. You can also swim in safe local spots.
- Stay within 200 metres from shore if you are kayaking, canoeing, rowing, surfing, wind surfing or paddle-boarding.
- During alert level 3 you cannot fly a manned aircraft, hunt in motorised vehicles, participate in water-based activities involving sailing boats, motorised boats or other craft like jet skis, or scuba dive.
- You can fish from a wharf or the shore, but do not cast off the rocks or fish from a boat and preferably stay local.

At Ecovis KGA we have a dedicated team to help you through these times and are well placed to assist in exploring what options are available and other measures to help protect your business.