

# COVID-19 Message Grid

4 October 2021

This contains the most up-to-date and approved messaging on key COVID-19 matters.

Information that changes or is added between grids will be highlighted. Please ensure you are using the most up to date version.

This version was current at 4/10/2021 6:05 PM

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## Unite Against COVID-19

Topic	Key message	Supporting messages	Notes
Auckland Alert Level 3	Three-stage plan for easing Auckland restrictions	<p>A roadmap for Auckland has been announced to carefully move out of current Covid-19 restrictions.</p> <p>Cabinet has confirmed to ease restrictions in Auckland using a three-step approach. So, Auckland will remain at Alert Level 3, but with several key changes.</p> <p>Aucklanders have worked hard to follow the Alert Level restrictions. Alert Level 3 and 4 restrictions in Auckland have helped control the spread of the virus.</p> <p>North-West Waikato remain at Alert Level 3. The easing of Auckland’s restrictions does not apply to the Level 3 areas in Waikato.</p> <p>The rest of New Zealand remains at Alert Level 2.</p> <p><b>Step 1 of easing Auckland’s Alert Level 3 restrictions</b></p>	PM standup, 4 Oct

From 11.59pm, Tuesday 5 October, Alert Level 3 restrictions in Auckland will start to ease.

- People will be able to connect with loved ones outdoors with no more than two households at a time, up to a maximum of 10 people.
- Early learning centres will be able to reopen with staff wearing face coverings, and with children in bubbles of 10. ECE teachers are being asked to get tested before they return to teaching.
- People will be able to travel throughout the Auckland region to undertake an expanded range of outdoor activities. For example, people will be able to visit the beach, sail, go fishing on a boat, hunt, participate in outdoor exercise classes. Activities must comply with the 10-person limit.

Everyone is encouraged to wear a face covering whenever they leave the house.

### **Next steps for Auckland**

Further steps to ease restrictions will be taken but will depend on public health advice.

**Step 2**, the plan is for retail to open its doors with the usual measures. Public facilities will open and the number of people who can meet outdoors will increase to 25.

**Step 3**, the plan is to reopen hospitality venues such as cafes and restaurants; events facilities like cinemas and casinos, and close-contact businesses such as hairdressers and beauty salons. Outdoor and indoor social gatherings of up to 50 will go ahead.

These changes will depend on what happens in the coming weeks.

The best way for Aucklanders to ensure that we can keep easing the restrictions is to get vaccinated and follow the public health advice.

Everyone should continue to wear face coverings and maintain social distancing. People who have symptoms or have been a location of interest must stay home, isolate and get a test.

## Education

Monday, 18 October has been set as an indicative date for schools in Auckland to reopen (after the school holidays). This subject to public health advice. A decision will be made closer to the time.

Children age 12 and over are strongly encouraged get vaccinated.

## Auckland boundaries

Air and land boundaries between Auckland and the rest of the New Zealand remain heavily restricted, and most people will not be permitted to travel across it without specified permission or exemptions. This is to provide confidence that COVID-19 will not be transmitted across the boundary.

Most people who are permitted to cross the boundary for business or personal reasons will require a COVID-19 test, with people travelling for permitted personal reasons requiring evidence of a negative result taken within 72 hours of travelling.

Information about permitted travel is available on the [Unite Against Covid](#) website.

## Level 2 updates

Changes to cap for hospitality venues at Level 2

From 11.59pm Tuesday, 5 October, the 100-person cap for hospitality venues and event facilities (indoor and outdoor) will be removed, but the "seated and separated" rule will remain. Maximum capacity will be determined by the number of customers that can be physically separated by 1 metre.

The limit of 100 will continue to apply to social gatherings (including funeral, tangihanga and weddings) which do not use the seated and separated rule.

PM  
standup,

## Health Update

Cases, testing and contact tracing

There are 29 new community cases.

The total number of community cases in this outbreak is 1,337

There are 30 cases in hospitals in the Auckland area. Of these, three are in a high dependency unit or an intensive care unit.

MoH, MR  
4 Oct

### Sequencing

Genome sequencing has confirmed both the Raglan case and the Hamilton both cases are linked, and both cases are also linked to one of the sub clusters in Auckland.

### Testing

13,693 tests were processed nationwide yesterday (Sunday 3 October).

7,420 tests were taken in Auckland yesterday (Sunday 3 October).

### Contact Tracing

1,184 active contacts are currently being managed, 81% of whom have had at least one test result.

### Wastewater Detections

No unexpected detections in the last 24 hours.

Wastewater samples will be collected from Raglan, Huntly, Te Kauwhata, Ngaruawahia, Feilding, Hunterville, Tooroa, Putaruru, Hamilton and Palmerston North.

Results of from these samples are expected over the coming days.

### NZ COVID-19 Tracer App

There were 2,121,669 poster scans in the 24 hours to midday yesterday (Sunday 3 October).

Parts of Waikato in Alert Level 3

Parts of the Waikato are at Alert Level 3 after two cases detected in the region.

Waikato communities of Raglan, Te Kauwhata, Huntly, Ngāruawahia and Hamilton City (based on the Hamilton city boundary) are in Alert Level 3.

People should stay home, wear face coverings when out and about, keeping track of where they've been, and maintain social distancing.

People should get vaccinated and get tested if they are sick. Testing stations are listed on the [Healthpoint](#) website.

Government intends for these level three restrictions to apply for up to the next 5 days.

PM, 1pm  
3 Oct

<p>Movement within Waikato</p>	<p>Alert Level 3 boundary in place in north west Waikato</p>	<p>Boundaries are in place around north west Waikato. To see a map of areas included in Alert level 3 see <a href="#">here</a></p> <p>Residents in Alert Level 3 areas are asked to maintain Alert level 3 behaviours, and not leave the area unless for permitted reasons, to reduce the risk of it spreading further.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People can travel from an Alert Level 2 area to the Waikato Alert Level 3 area, and back again, for limited, permitted reasons. This includes for work in permitted business and services, as listed on the <a href="#">United Against Covid</a> website.</li> <li>• People <b>cannot</b> cross from the Waikato Alert Level 3 area to work in an Alert Level 2 area, except for work in permitted businesses and services, as listed on the <a href="#">Unite Against Covid</a> website.</li> <li>• Anyone travelling in and out of the Waikato Alert Level 3 area - other than across the boundary with Auckland – is not required to provide evidence of a recent test.</li> <li>• People travelling for permitted reasons should carry evidence of the purpose of travel and be prepared to explain reasons for travel if they are stopped at a checkpoint or for a spot check.</li> <li>• A formal business travel document is not required, but it is recommended people carry a letter from their employer confirming place of work and need to travel.</li> </ul> <p>Permitted reasons and advice for travel across the Waikato Alert Level boundaries are on the <a href="#">Unite Against Covid website</a>.</p>	<p>Min Hipkins MR, 4 Oct</p>
<p>North Shore Maternity Ward cases</p>	<p>Baby returns positive COVID-19 test, after visitor to maternity ward tests positive for COVID-19.</p>	<p>A visitor to North Shore Hospital’s maternity ward tested positive for COVID-19. A baby and the baby’s mother were subsequently tested - the baby has returned a positive result, while the mother was negative.</p> <p>The mother and baby were in a single room in hospital – separated from other mothers and babies – for the duration of their care. The positive case visited them twice while potentially infectious. The mother and baby</p>	<p>MoH 4 October</p>

		<p>have been relocated to a COVID-19 appropriate ward and safety protocols are in place.</p> <p>A small number of staff, who may have interacted with the visitor, have been stood down as a precautionary measure.</p> <p>Waitemata DHB is fully assessing the situation to determine if any other actions are required.</p>	
Waikato and Palmerston North cases	Update on case number in Waikato and Palmerston North	<p>Overnight three household contacts of the Raglan case tested positive for COVID-19. One is a newly identified household contact, living on the property.</p> <p>All three have been moved to an Auckland quarantine facility. These cases will be officially recorded in tomorrow's case numbers.</p> <p>Initial tests from all four close contacts associated with worksites of the Auckland-based truck driver, who is isolating in Palmerston North, have returned initial negative results.</p>	MoH 4 October
Police update	Auckland compliance update	<p>Since Alert Level 3 came into place, 11 people have been charged with a total of 11 offences in Tāmaki Makaurau, as at 5pm yesterday (Sunday 4 October 2021).</p> <p>Of these, eight were for Failing to Comply with Order (COVID-19), two were for Failure to Comply with Direction/Prohibition/Restriction, and one was a Health Act Breach.</p> <p>In the same time period, 18 people were formally warned.</p> <p>Police have received a total of 2199 105-online breach notifications relating to businesses, mass gatherings or people in Tāmaki Makaurau.</p>	Police MR 4 Oct
Wage support for business	Fourth round of Wage Subsidy and Resurgence Support available	<p>The Wage Subsidy will continue to be made available while Auckland transitions from Level 3. Resurgence support will also be available.</p> <p>Applications for the fourth round of COVID-19 Wage Subsidy opened Friday 1 October, and will close at 11.59pm on Thursday 14 October.</p>	PM standup, 4 OCT MSD, Min Finance

			<p>Businesses in any part of New Zealand can apply if 40% of their revenue decline is due to the effect of Alert Levels 3 or 4, and they meet the other eligibility criteria.</p> <p>More information is available on the <a href="#">Work and Income site</a>.</p> <p>Another round of the COVID-19 Resurgence Support Payment will also be made available, from 8 October.</p> <p>More information will be made available on the <a href="#">Inland Revenue website</a>.</p>	standup 1 Oct
	New QR code	Three new requirements for display of QR code posters are being implemented and come into effect at 11.59pm tomorrow, Tuesday 5 October.	<p>New changes to QR poster display requirements will mean additional copies of a COVID-19 QR code will need to be displayed in places – other than the entrance way - throughout businesses and locations that are already required to display them. This is in addition to an already required QR code displayed at the main entrance.</p> <p>QR code posters are now also required to be kept in a good condition, this limits the risk that scanning doesn't take place if posters are faded or damaged or difficult to scan in on.</p> <p>The QR code must not be altered in a way that makes it unclear that it has been issued by the NZ Government for the purposes of contact tracing. Businesses and locations must use the official COVID-19 QR code posters issued by the Ministry of Health. This also ensures people know the QR code they are scanning links to the COVID tracer app and is for contact tracing purposes.</p> <p>Public transport operators are also included and will need to display additional copies of QR codes. This is in addition to the existing requirement to display a copy in a prominent place on or inside any vehicle. Vehicles with five or fewer seats including taxis and ride shares are exempt from displaying additional copies.</p>	UAC / Min. Robertso n stand- up

# Vaccines

Topic	Key message	Supporting messages	Notes
2 million Kiwis fully vaccinated	48% of eligible New Zealanders are fully vaccinated	<p>As of Monday morning, 4 October, 2,018,305 people are fully vaccinated with two doses, representing 48 percent of New Zealanders aged 12 and over.</p> <p>Every person vaccinated increases the country's protection and reduces the need for lockdown measures.</p>	Min Hipkins PR, 4 Oct
Auckland vaccination rates	83% of eligible Aucklanders have had least one vaccine dose	<p>By 11.59pm 3 October, 1,950,883 doses had been administered in Auckland.</p> <p>1,206,138 (84% of eligible Aucklanders) have had at least one dose, and 744,000 (52% of eligible Aucklanders) are fully vaccinated.</p>	MoH, 4 Oct
NZ Vaccine update	More than 5 million vaccine doses administered to date	<p>As of 11.59pm Tuesday 28 September, a total of 5,346,591 doses have been administered in New Zealand.</p> <p>3,328,286 New Zealanders (79% of people age 12 and over) have had at least one dose, and 2,018,305 (48% of people age 12 and over) are fully vaccinated.</p> <p><b>Vaccination progress for Māori</b></p> <p>As of 11.59pm 3 October 323,582 Māori have at least one dose (56% percent of Maori age 12 and over) and 177,607 (31%) are fully vaccinated.</p> <p><b>Vaccination progress for Pacific Peoples</b></p> <p>As of 11.59pm 3 October, 209,388 Pacific people (73% of Pacific people age 12 and over) have had at least one dose and 126,153 (44%) are fully vaccinated.</p>	MoH, 1 Oct
Non-NZ Citizens must be vaccinated to enter New Zealand	From 1 November 2021, anyone who is not a NZ citizen, will be required to be vaccinated before entering New Zealand	<p>From 1 November 2021, anyone entering New Zealand (17 years plus), who is NOT a New Zealand citizen will be required to provide proof that they have been vaccinated.</p> <p>NZ has a goal to safely reopen our borders next year. The introduction of a vaccine mandate for these travelers is part of the programme to help us reconnect New</p>	Chris Hipkins MR 3 Oct

		<p>Zealanders in Q1 2022. The vaccination requirement will apply to non-New Zealand citizens only entering NZ.</p> <p>Travellers booking their MIQ spot, will be required to declare they are vaccinated prior to booking a place, and may be required to provide evidence of vaccination at airline check-in, boarding and or on arrival at NZ customs.</p>	
Air New Zealand	No jab no fly policy	Air New Zealand is asking customers to get ready for international travel by getting vaccinated. From 1 February 2022, the airline will require customers 18 years and over travelling anywhere on its international network to be fully vaccinated	Air NZ MR 3 Oct

## Quarantine-Free Travel

Topic	Key message	Supporting messages	Notes
Cooks Islands repatriation flights	Two flights scheduled to take Cook Islanders stranded in New Zealand to Rarotonga.	<p>Two repatriation flights will depart New Zealand for Rarotonga to take home Cook Islanders stranded in New Zealand.</p> <p>For Cook Islanders in Alert Level 2 regions in New Zealand, a flight is scheduled to depart from Christchurch Airport to Rarotonga on 7 October.</p> <p>For Cook Islanders in Alert Level 3 in Auckland, a flight is scheduled to depart from Auckland Airport to Rarotonga on 15 October.</p> <p>People intending to travel on these flights will be required to have a COVID-19 test 72 hours before departure.</p> <p>Travellers flying from Christchurch will need to complete at least seven days of Managed Isolation and Quarantine on arrival in Rarotonga, while travellers from Auckland will need to complete up to 14 days.</p>	Cook Islands PM, 25 September

<p>Flights from Niue to Auckland</p>	<p>The Government of Niue (GON) has announced it has decided to allow, in principle, the recommencement of passenger flights from Auckland to Niue</p>	<p>The first passenger flights from Auckland to Niue would arrive on Monday 18 October 2021.</p> <p>GON is working closely with the New Zealand Government and the Ministry of Health on the safest time to recommence passenger flights to Niue.</p>	<p>PR Govt of Niue, 29 Sep</p>
<p>Red flights from Australia</p>	<p>Air New Zealand adds red flights from Australia to its schedule for December</p>	<p>Air New Zealand has added 31 red flights to its schedule in December, for people wanting to return from Australia before 31 December.</p> <p>The announcement follows tonight’s release of 3,800 MIQ rooms, which will be available in October – December.</p> <p>The airline’s red flights from Australia to New Zealand are available to book now. People will have 48 hours following securing an MIQ room to book their flights.</p> <p>More information is available on the <a href="#">Air New Zealand</a> website.</p>	<p>Air NZ PR, 28 Sept</p>