

May 11, 2020

## New Zealand COVID-19 economic update

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern today announced New Zealand will lower its COVID-19 restrictions to 'Alert Level 2' from Thursday 14 May, and also provided additional guidance.

Details of Level 2 are at: [www.covid19.govt.nz/alert-system/alert-level-2/](http://www.covid19.govt.nz/alert-system/alert-level-2/)

On Thursday, offices, retailers, bakeries, restaurants, public venues like cinemas and other businesses with the exception of bars and schools will be allowed to open and have the public on their premises. The requirement that people work from home if possible will be removed.

Precautions must be taken such as physical distancing, improved hygiene measures and wearing of PPE in the case of businesses (such as hairdressers) which require close personal contact.

Schools will be open to all students from 18 May. Bars will be allowed to open on 21 May but only for seated patrons and with table service.

People will be allowed to leave their 'bubbles' but gatherings (eg parties, weddings, funerals, restaurant bookings) will be limited to 10 people, for the time being. This will be reassessed in two weeks. Domestic tourism will be able to resume. People are encouraged to maintain physical distance from strangers.

There has been a trickle of new COVID-19 cases (0-3 per day in the last week), all linked to known existing cases. With record testing, the Government appears confident there is not hidden transmission of COVID-19 occurring.

The Prime Minister did not announce a time when the Alert Level would be reviewed again but said the ultimate aim was to move to even lower levels of restriction. She said the election, due for 19 September, could be held at Level 2 if necessary.

On the topic of this Thursday's Budget, the Prime Minister reiterated Finance Minister Grant Robertson's comments that the Government views the post-COVID recovery as an opportunity to rebuild better. She said that it was important not to view the Budget at the totality of the Government's response; it is just one of many steps. Ardern and Robertson have hinted at more targeted assistance to affected industries.

For specific information on how Level 2 affects your business, please feel free to contact us directly, or visit [www.covid19.govt.nz/alert-system/alert-level-2/](http://www.covid19.govt.nz/alert-system/alert-level-2/)

### Further information

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