

## **NEW ZEALAND RAISES ALERT LEVELS**

UPDATE: August 14, 2020

On August 14 the New Zealand Government announced an extension of the Level 3 lockdown of Auckland for a further twelve days, until 26 August, with the rest of the country remaining at Level 2 for the same period. This decision will be reviewed on 21 August.

The COVID Alert Levels were raised following an outbreak in Auckland. The first cases were confirmed on Tuesday with Auckland being placed into Level 3 lockdown on Wednesday (the second-highest level of lockdown) with the rest of the country placed at Level 2 (see details of the lockdown restrictions here).

29 cases have now been found - 27 in Auckland and 2 in Tokoroa. All are believed to be part of the same cluster, although the ultimate source of infection has not been identified and it is not known how long it may have been present before it was detected (possible links to the airport and to imported frozen food are being examined). 30,000 tests nationwide in the last three days have not found any unconnected cases.

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August 12, 2020

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern and Director-General of Health Ashley Bloomfield has announced that as of noon on Wednesday August 12:

- Auckland will move to Alert Level 3
- The rest of New Zealand will move to Alert Level 2

These Alert Levels will remain in place for three days, until midnight on Friday.

This follows confirmation of four cases of COVID-19 outside of isolation facilities in South Auckland. These are the first confirmed cases of community transmission in 102 days.

At a press conference at 10.30am today (Wednesday), Director-General of Health Ashley Bloomfield confirmed one of the new cases travelled to Rotorua while showing symptoms of the virus. Bloomfield noted that if there is another case in Rotorua a nationwide response will be necessary.

Health Minister Chris Hipkins has said testing will play an important role over the next three days, with 50,000 people expected to be tested by the end of the week, as the Government tries to trace the chain of transmission and isolate those who are infected.



Hipkins told media this morning that once the Government has a better understanding of the scale of the outbreak it will be in a better position to decide next steps.

All aged care facilities in New Zealand will be placed into full lockdown today as a precaution.

Political parties have suspended their election campaigns.

Parliament was due to be dissolved this morning in advance of the election. Ardern confirmed this has been deferred until at least Monday to ensure the Government has as much flexibility as possible to deal with the outbreak.

There have been calls to delay the September 19 election. Advice has been sought on options however it is likely the Government will wait until it has a better idea of the scale of transmission before making any decisions on this.

For Auckland under Level 3:

- Businesses are able to open, but should not physically interact with customers.
- Essential services including healthcare, justice services and businesses providing necessities are able to open.
- Bars and restaurants should close, but takeaways are allowed.
- Public venues should close. This includes libraries, museums, cinemas, food courts, gyms, pools, playgrounds and markets.
- Schools in Auckland can safely open but will have limited capacity. Where possible we encourage students to learn from home.
- Aucklanders are asked to maintain physical distancing of 2 metres outside their home, including on public transport.
- It is highly recommended to wear a mask if out and about.
- Public transport can continue to operate with strict health and safety requirements, including maintaining physical distancing and wearing a mask.
- Gatherings of up to 10 people can continue, but only for wedding services, funerals and tangihanga. Physical distancing and public health measures should be maintained.

For the rest of New Zealand under Level 2:

- Workplaces and schools can open, with physical distancing.
- People should wear masks if they can in public.
- No more than 100 people at gatherings, including weddings, birthdays, funerals and tangihanga.



- Businesses can open to the public if they are following public health guidance, which include physical distancing and record keeping.

Capital GR is based in Wellington and will continue to service clients as usual. We will however be closing the office as a precaution and instead working from home.

Clients should feel free to contact us if you would like any guidance on what this means for your business.

For full details and the most up to date information visit: [www.covid19.govt.nz](http://www.covid19.govt.nz)

**Further information**

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