

Alert levels extended, with Auckland remaining at alert level 3, rest of NZ at level 2 until August 26

At a press conference on Friday 14 August 2020 Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern announced that Auckland will remain at Alert Level 3, while the rest of the country will remain at Alert Level 2 until midnight Wednesday 26 August 2020. This represents an extension for an additional 12 days over what was announced on 11 August 2020. The current Alert Levels will be reviewed again on 21 August.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said, with no other clusters or outbreaks, there was “nothing to suggest” another level 4 lockdown was necessary.

Extending the restrictions for an additional 12 days is the same length of the virus’ incubation period, director-general of health Dr Ashley Bloomfield said.

It was the Government’s expectation that by the time the 14-day period was complete, the perimeter of the cluster will be identified, isolated and “we can move to level 2 in Auckland with confidence”, Ardern said.

On the criteria for moving to level 4, Ardern reiterated we would need to see cases “on a much larger scale” than what the country was currently seeing.

“There is nothing to suggest we need to move to a level 4 lockdown at this stage, as we do not have a number of clusters or unrelated cases,” Ardern said.

Key information for Auckland and Alert Level 3:

- If you have any symptoms of COVID-19 or are unwell, stay home and get in contact with your doctor or Healthline.
- Stay home and within your personal household bubble whenever you are not at school or work or accessing essential services. If you can work or educate from home, please do.
- Maintain physical distancing of 2 metres when you are in public.
- Mask use is highly encouraged.
- You may only travel in and out of the Auckland region if you are returning home to the place that you ordinarily live.

Key information for other regions and Alert Level 2:

- If you have any symptoms of COVID-19 or are unwell, stay home and get in contact with your doctor or Healthline.
- Gatherings and events must be less than 100 people and physical distance should be maintained from others when in public – two metres in public and retail stores and one metre in workplaces, cafes, restaurants and gyms.
- Mask use is highly encouraged.

See the Government’s Unite Against COVID-19 site for more information.

Alert Level 3: <https://covid19.govt.nz/covid-19/restrictions/alert-level-3/>

Alert Level 2: <https://covid19.govt.nz/covid-19/restrictions/alert-level-2/>

Resources:

Coronavirus: Status quo remains, with Auckland remaining at alert level 3, rest of NZ at level 2 until August 26 < <https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/health/coronavirus/122455139/coronavirus-status-quo-remains-with-auckland-remaining-at-alert-level-3-rest-of-nz-at-level-2-until-august-26>>